

# phoenix

YAMATO/SPACE

OSAMU TEZUKA

vol.3



# Phoenix

## YAMATO/SPACE

This third volume of Osamu Tezuka's acclaimed *Phoenix* saga contains two self-contained stories, one set in Japan's turbulent past, the other in the far-flung future. "Yamato" is a bloody Shakespearean morality play, where betrayal heaps upon betrayal. "Space" is a trip into outer and inner space featuring some of Tezuka's most innovative layouts ever.

"Tezuka's visual imagination is as stunning as his narrative is ambitious...a work guaranteed to blow [readers'] minds."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"A milestone in manga translation."

—*The Comics Journal*



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YAMATO/SPACE



BY OSAMU TEZUKA





Also by Osamu Tezuka available from VIZ:

*Adolf: A Tale of the Twentieth Century*

*Adolf: An Exile in Japan*

*Adolf: The Half-Aryan*

*Adolf: Days of Infamy*

*Adolf: 1945 and All That Remains*

*Black Jack, Volume 1*

*Black Jack: Two-Fisted Surgeon*

*Phoenix: Dawn*

*Phoenix: A Tale of the Future*

**phoenix**

YAMATO

BY OSAMU TEZUKA



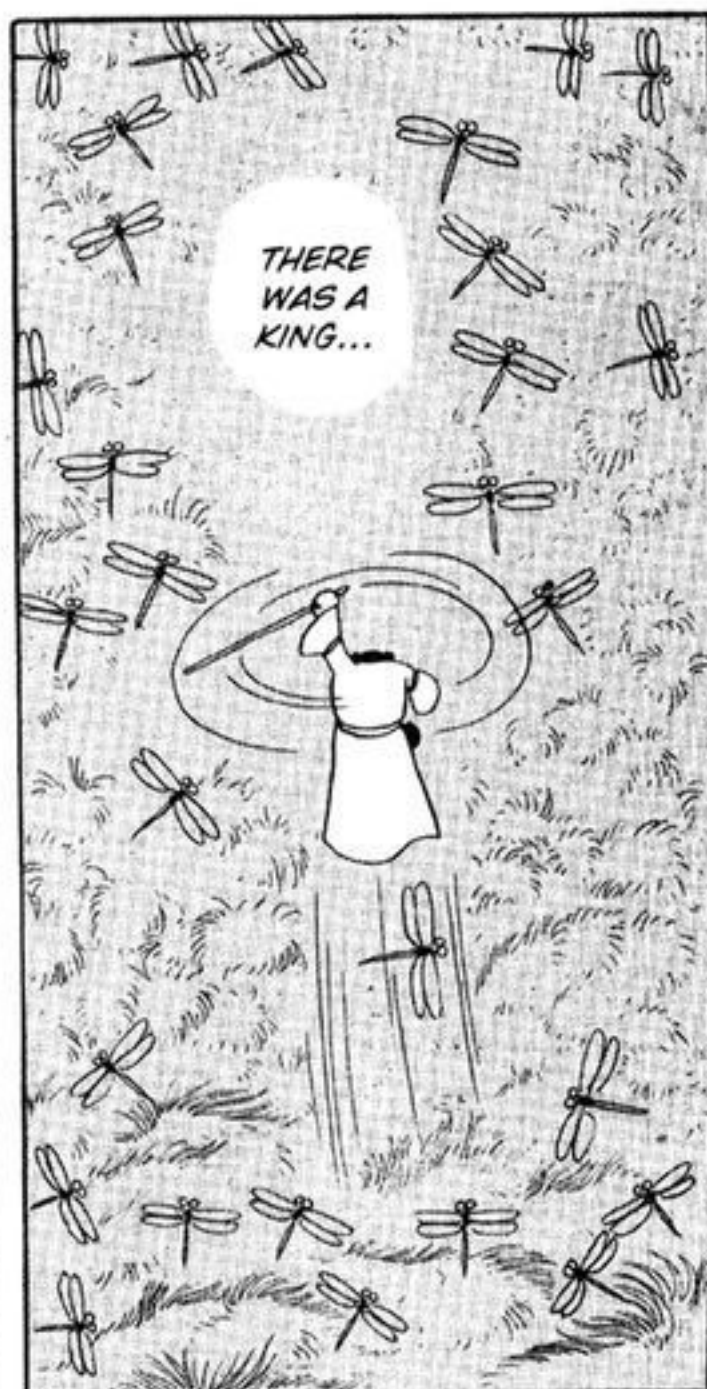
IN ASUKA, OF NARA PREFECTURE,  
JAPAN, LIES THE STONE TOMB  
OF A HALF COMPLETED BURIAL  
MOUND. WHY WAS IT LEFT  
EXPOSED AND UNFINISHED?  
PERHAPS THE KING WHO WAS  
BURIED HERE MET WITH SOME  
UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTIES...  
PERHAPS IT HAPPENED LIKE THIS...



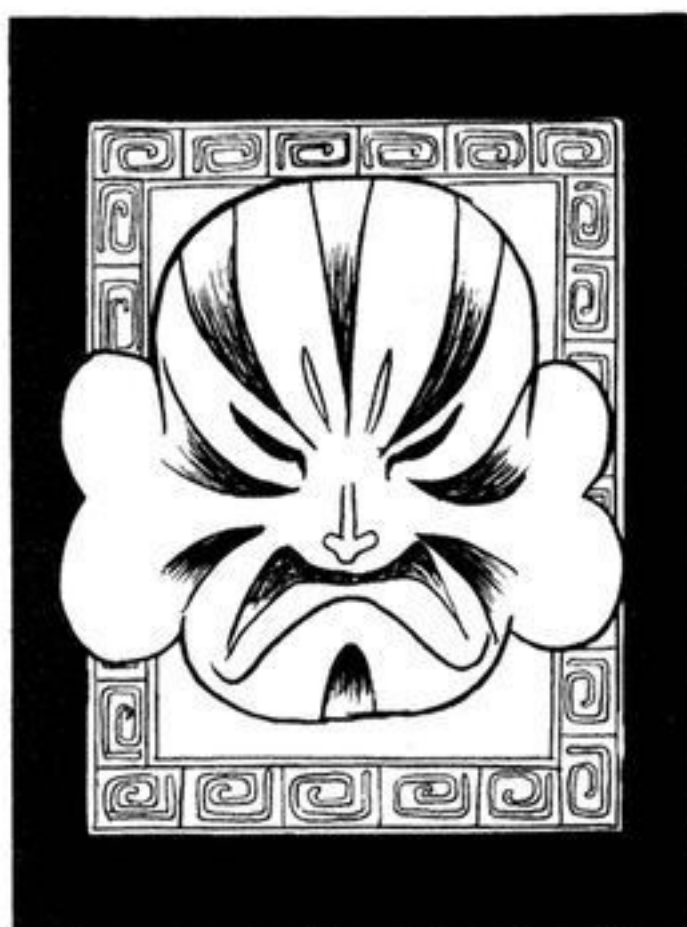
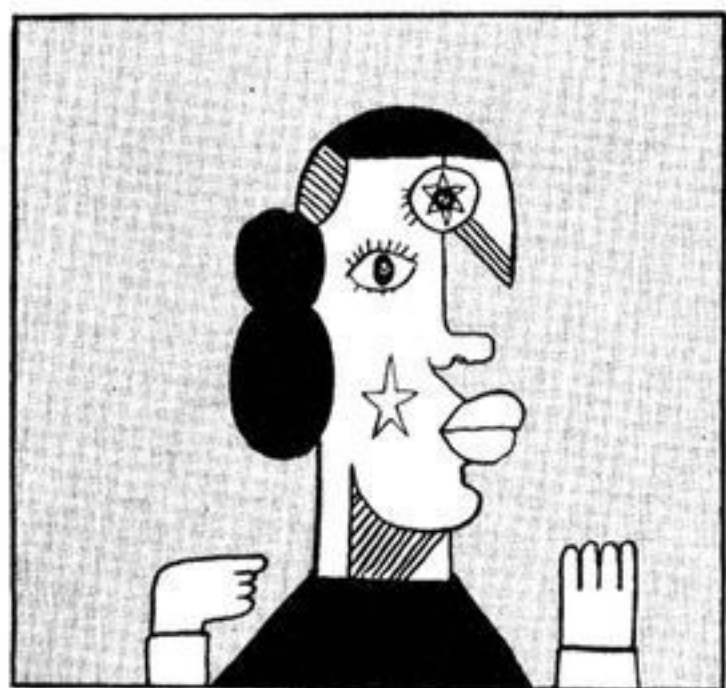
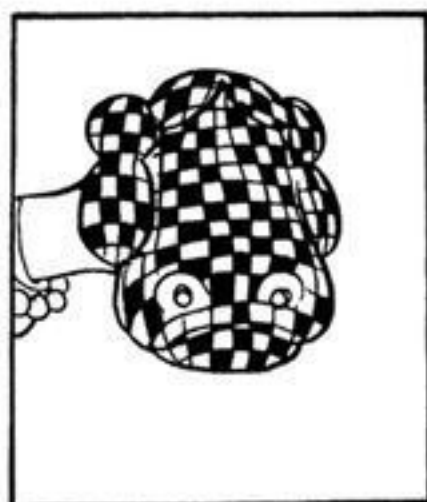


ONCE  
UPON  
A TIME,  
AND 365  
TIMES  
THAT...

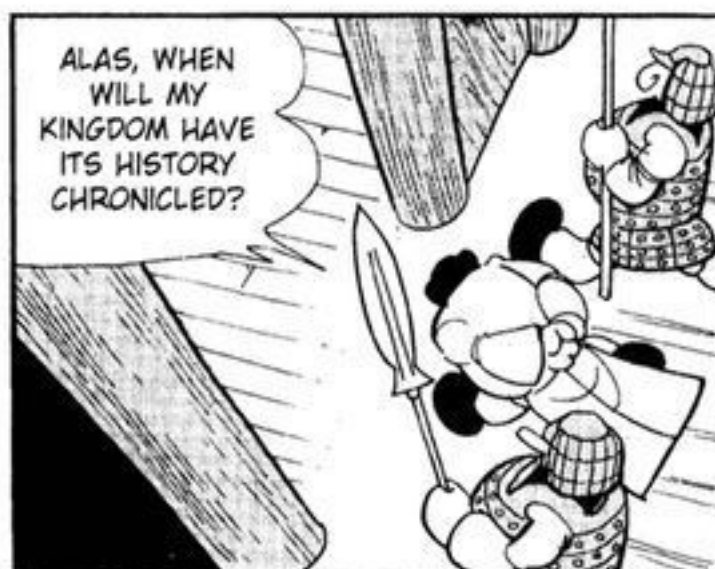
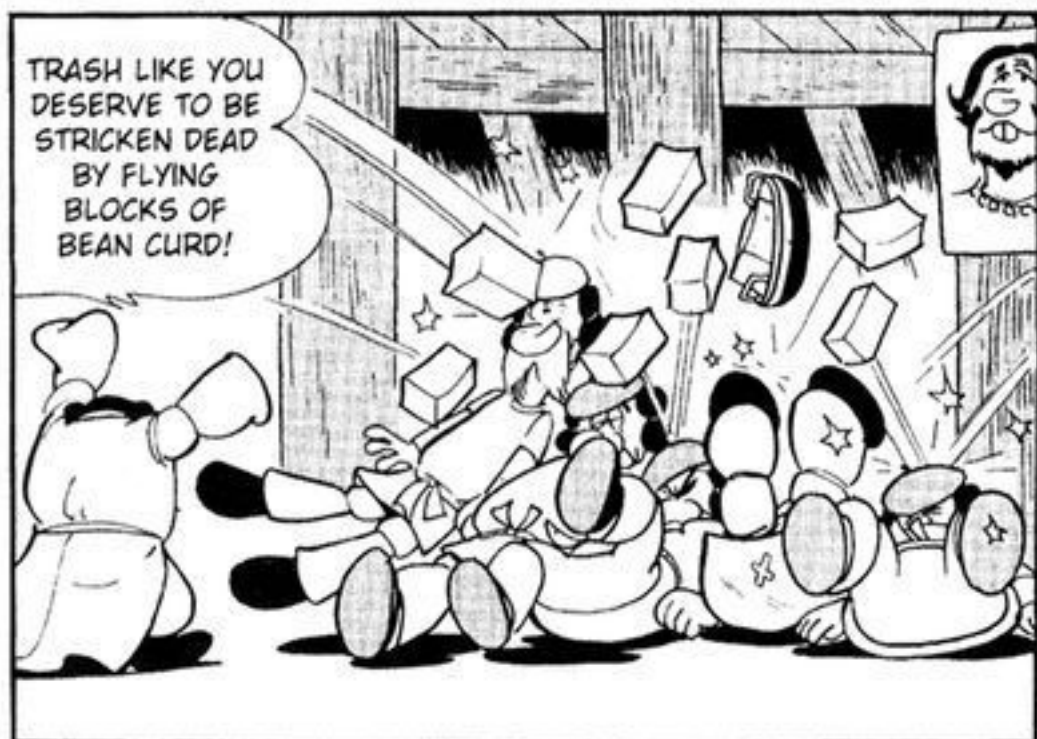
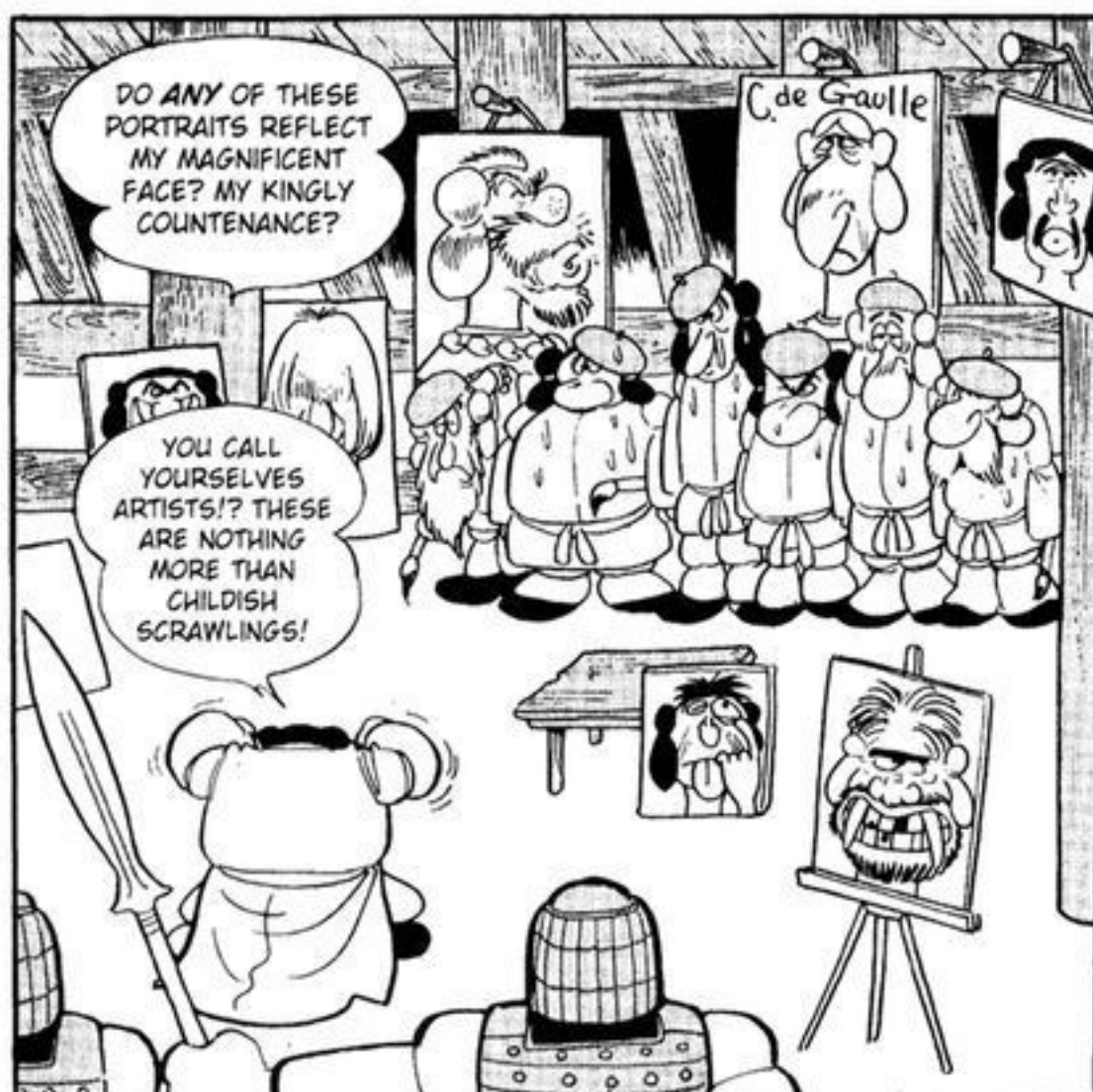




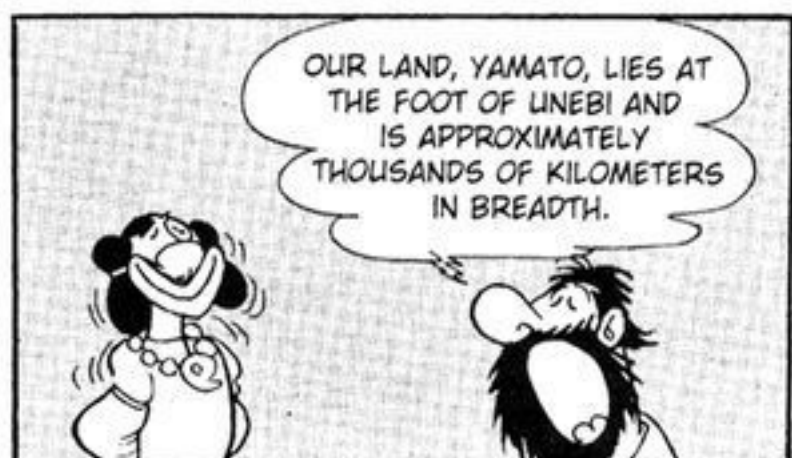
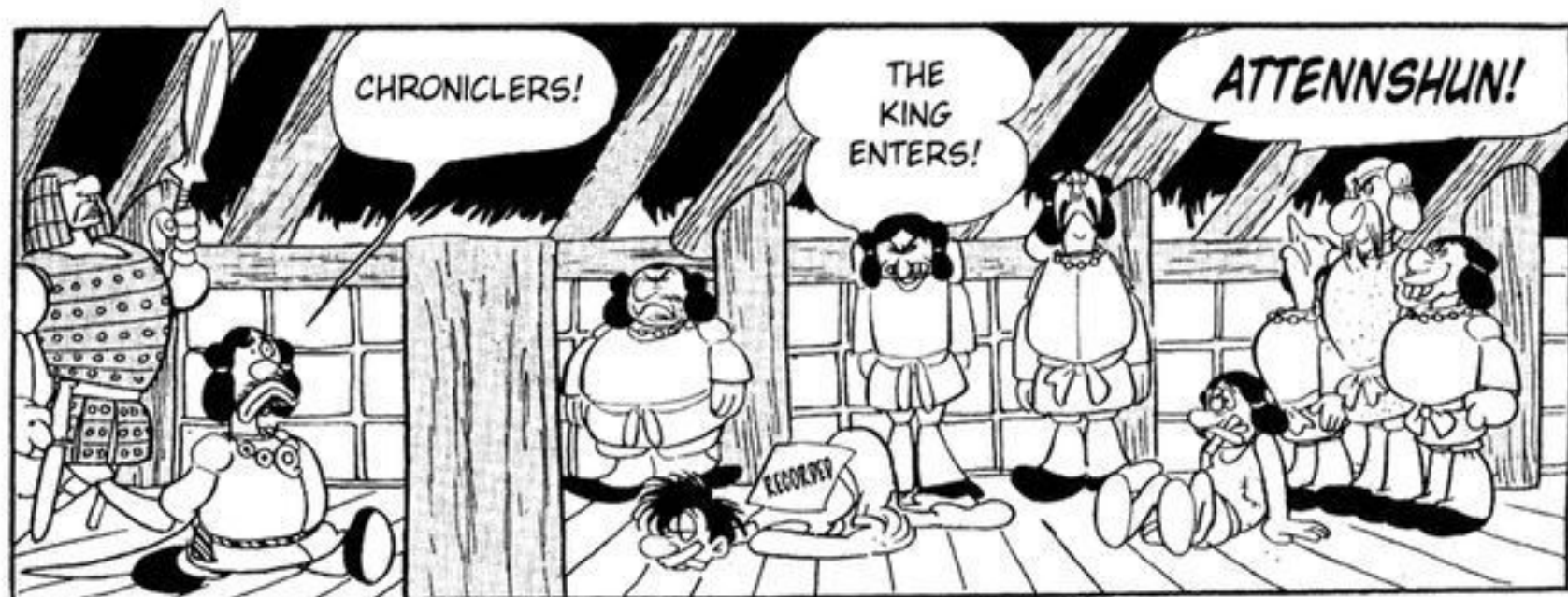




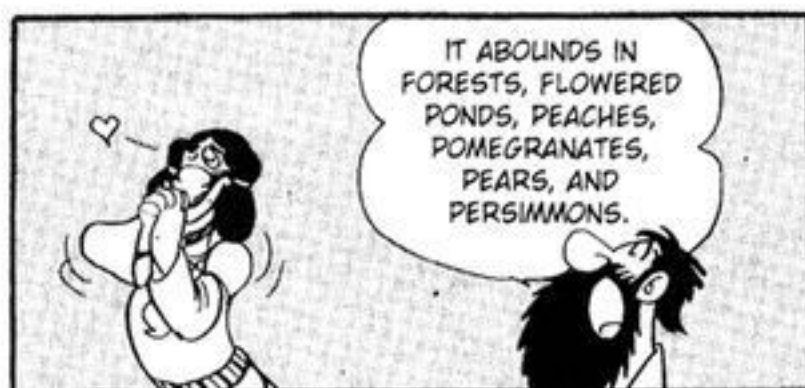




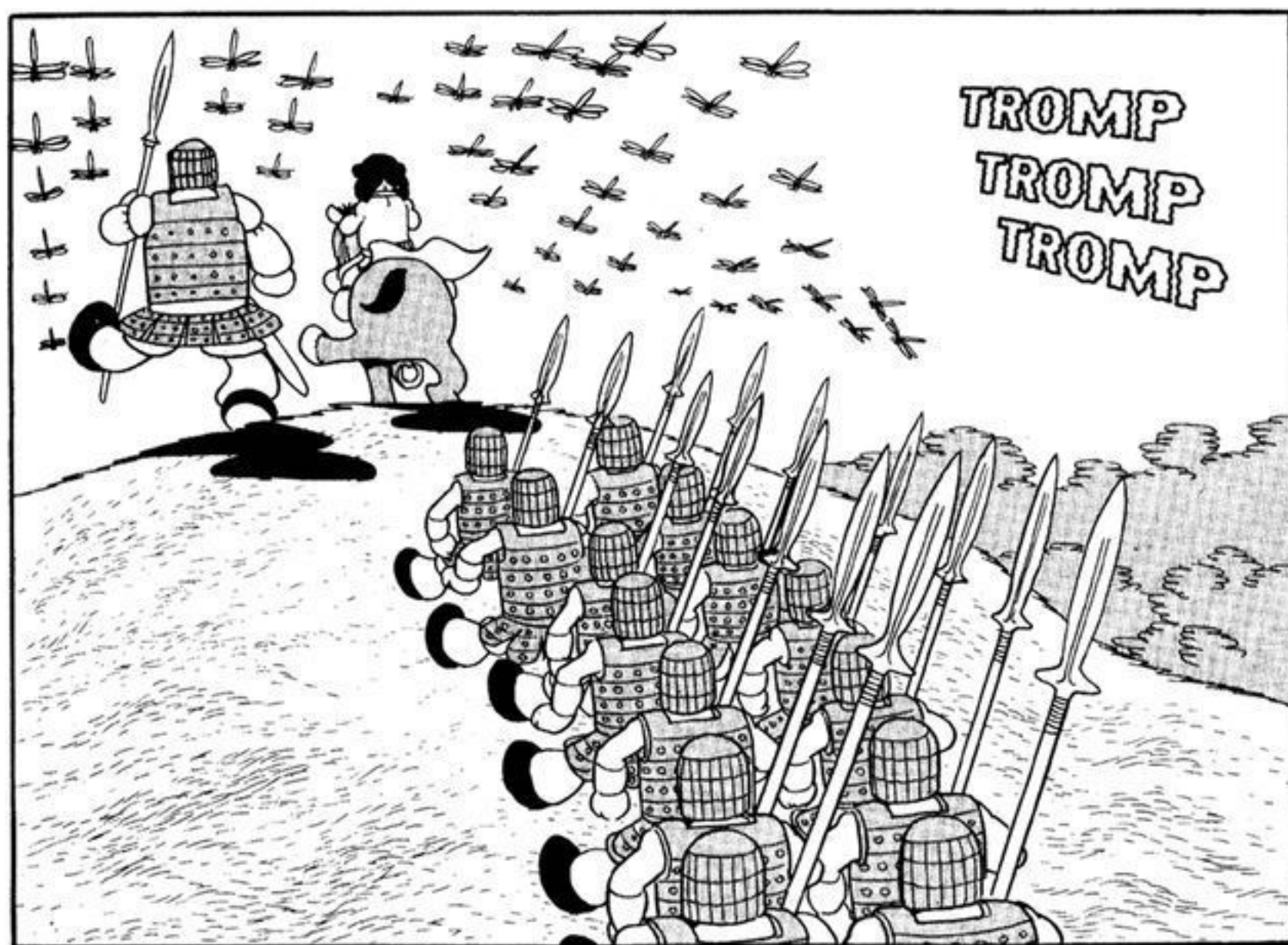
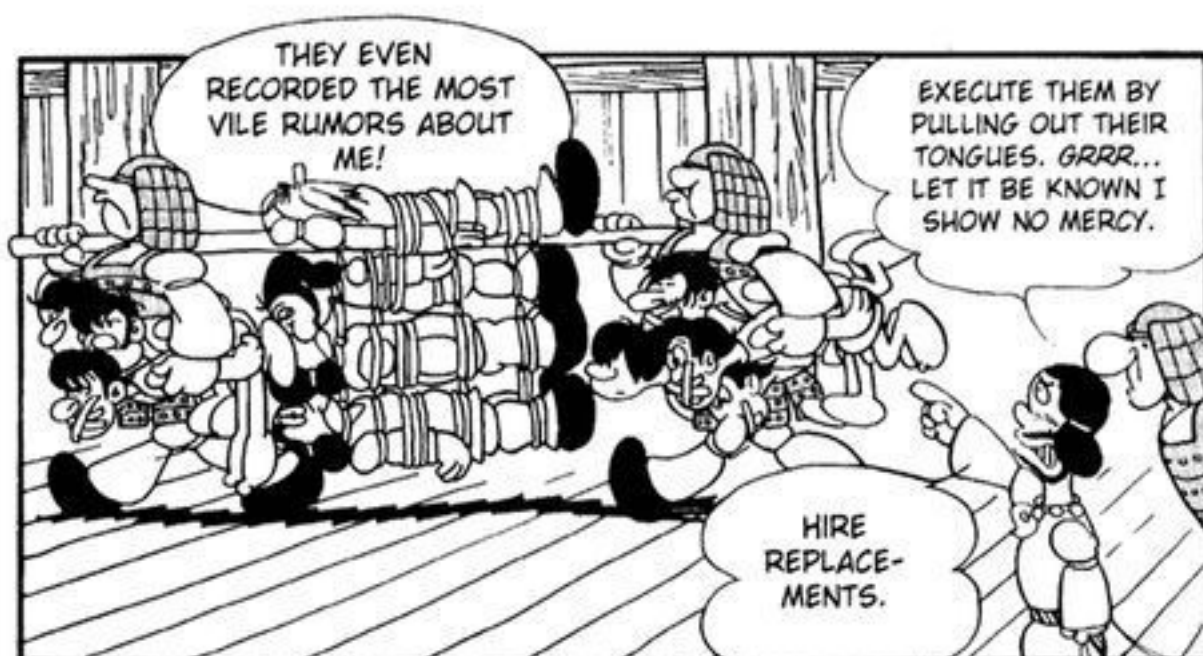








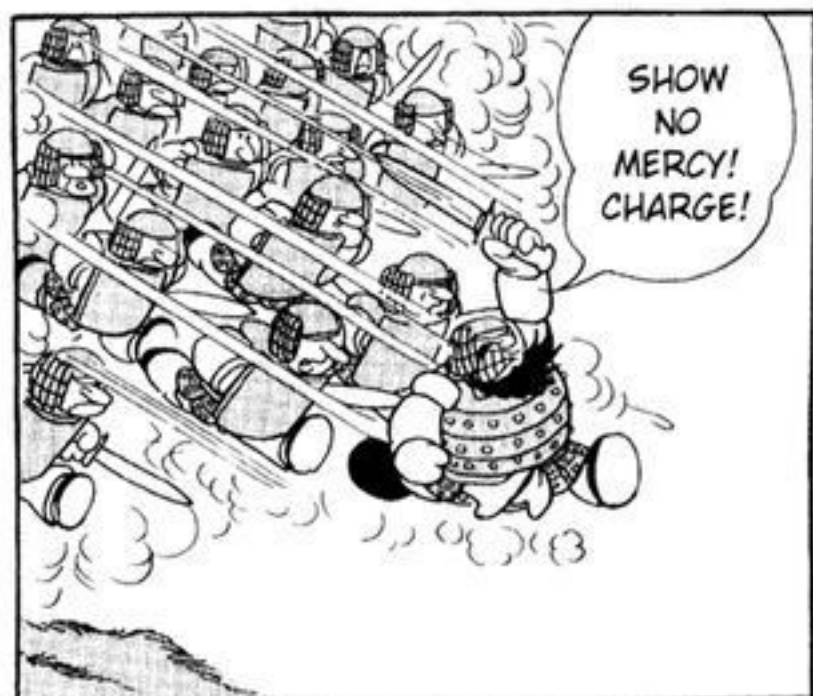
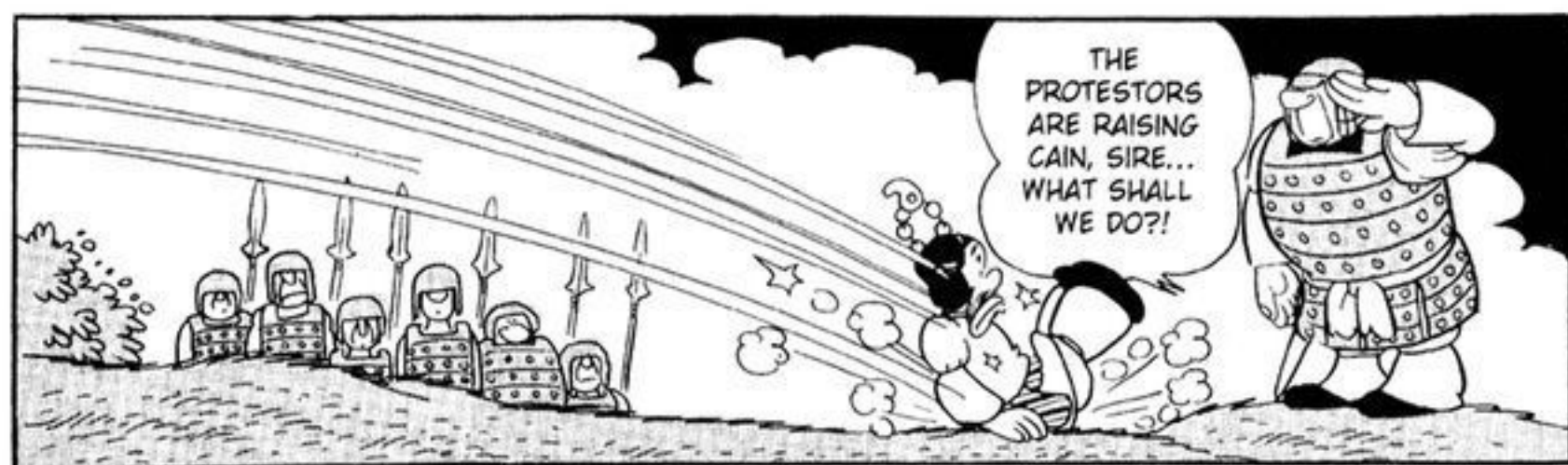
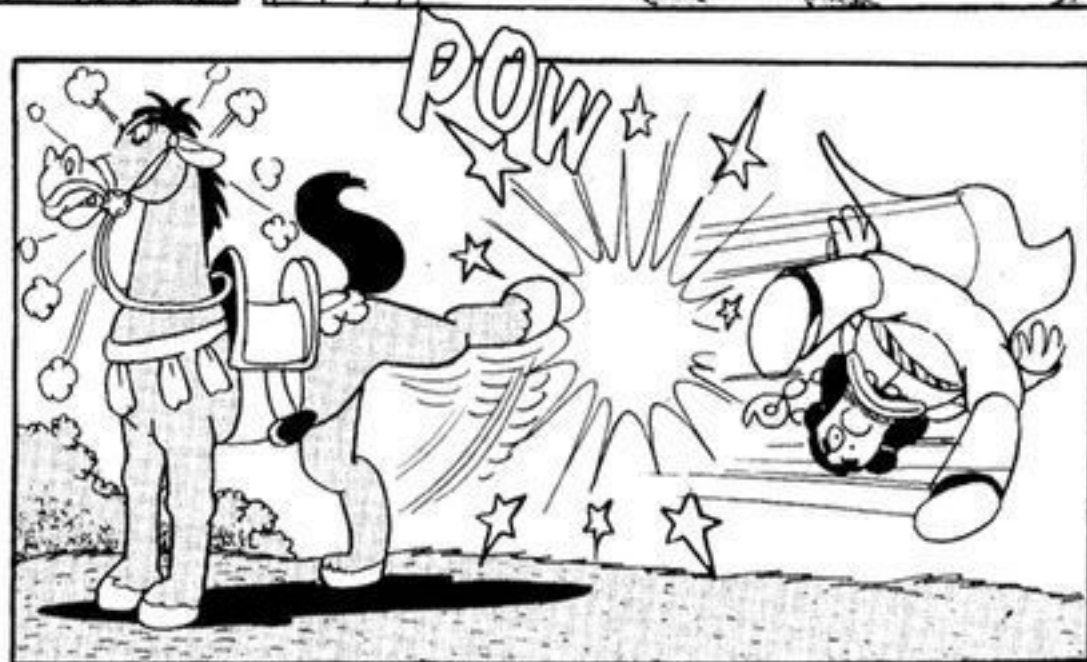




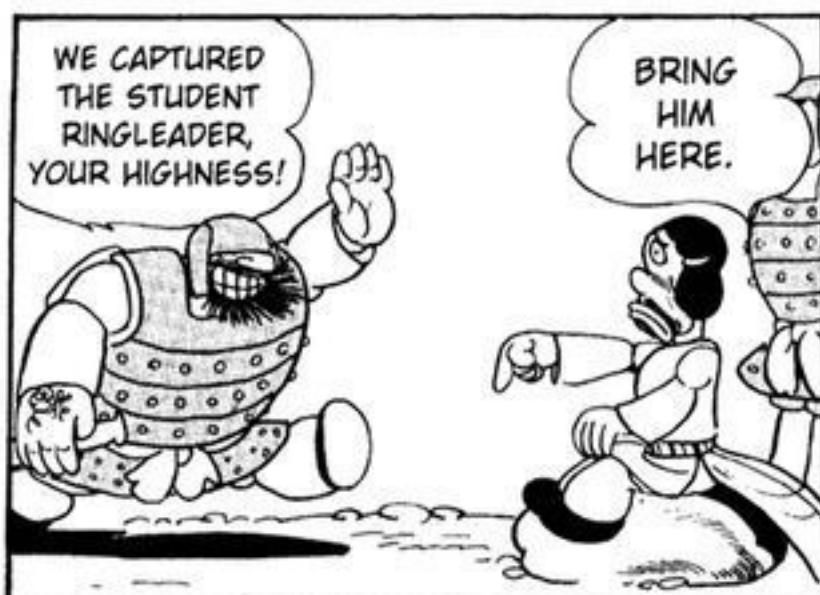




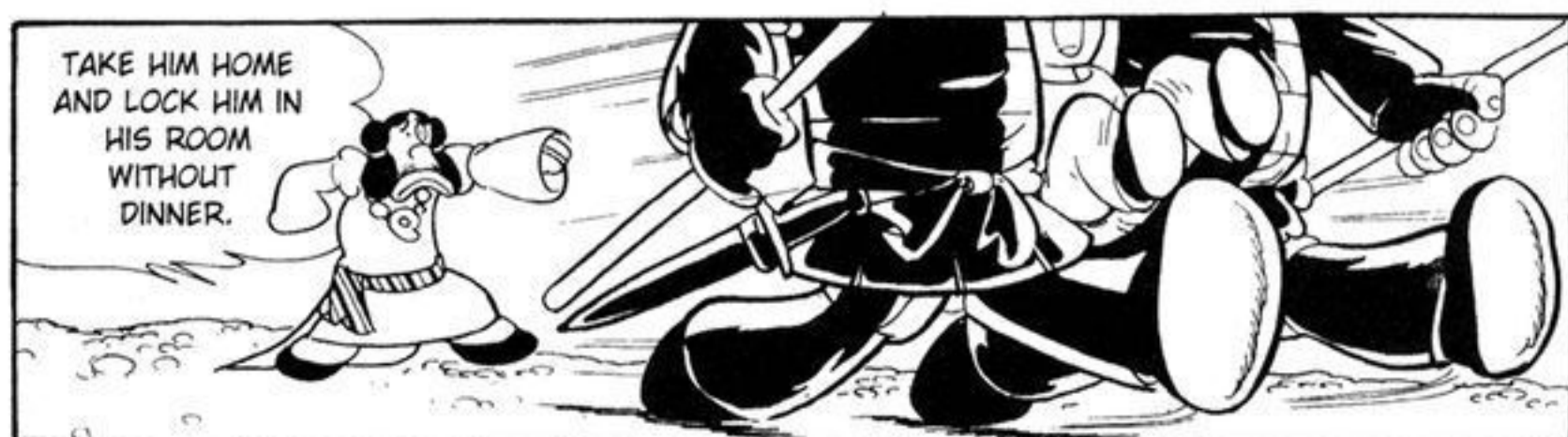












TAKE HIM HOME  
AND LOCK HIM IN  
HIS ROOM  
WITHOUT  
DINNER.



HERE, SIRE,  
WE'VE  
COMPILED A  
BROCHURE  
FOR THE  
TOURISTS...

EXCELLENT! DOES IT  
CONTAIN A DETAILED  
DESCRIPTION OF MY  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS?



YES, OF COURSE...  
THERE'S EVEN A  
SONG OF ADULATION  
DEDICATED  
TO YOU.

ROSES ARE  
RED. VIOLETS  
ARE BLUE.  
VISIT THE  
TOMB, THE  
KING INVITES  
YOU!

HMM...  
SOUNDS  
VAGUELY  
FAMILIAR.



THE TITLE OF THE  
PAMPHLET IS  
*KOJIKI*\*, YOUR  
MAJESTY...

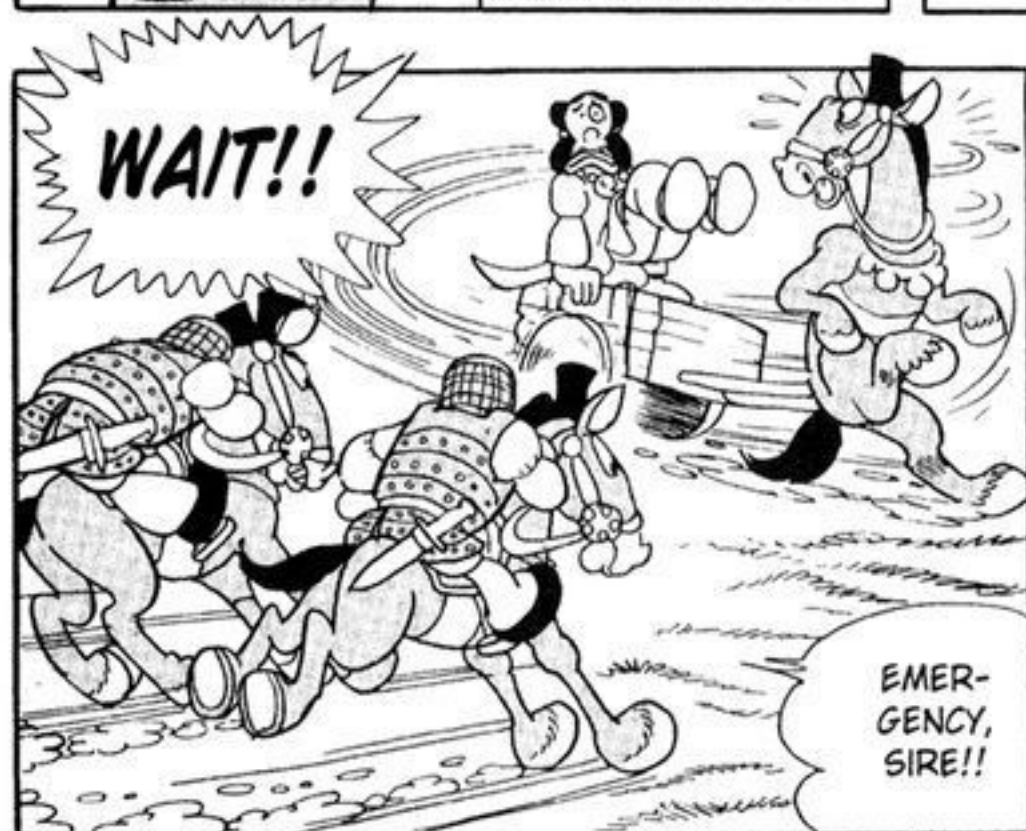
SOUNDS  
LIKE A  
CASE OF  
THE  
HICUPS  
TO ME.

\*KOJIKI: LITERALLY, "THE ANCIENT  
CHRONICLES." THE FIRST HISTORY  
OF JAPAN, PRODUCED IN 712 A.D.



HOW ABOUT  
SOMETHING  
WITH A LITTLE  
MORE  
PIZZAZZ?

I...BEG  
YOUR  
PARDON,  
SIRE?!



WAIT!!

EMER-  
GENCY,  
SIRE!!

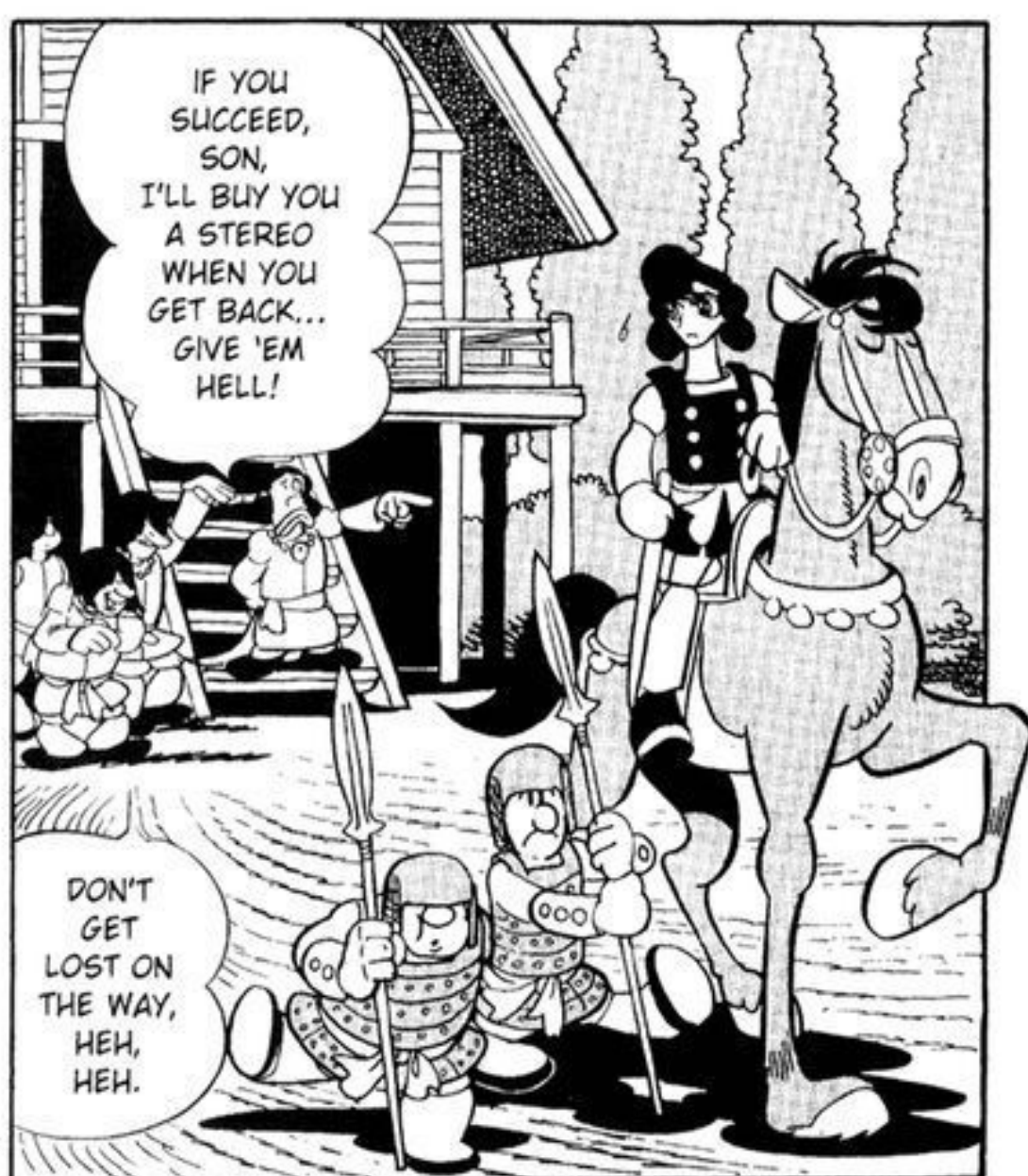
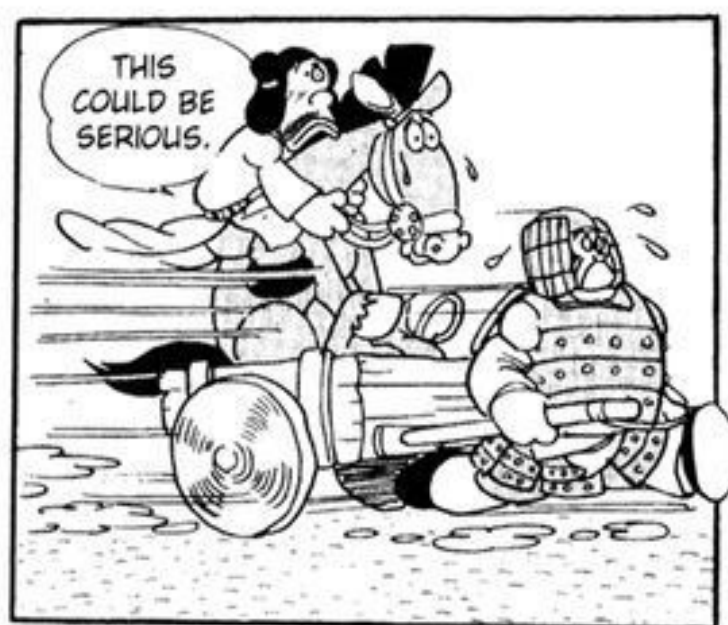
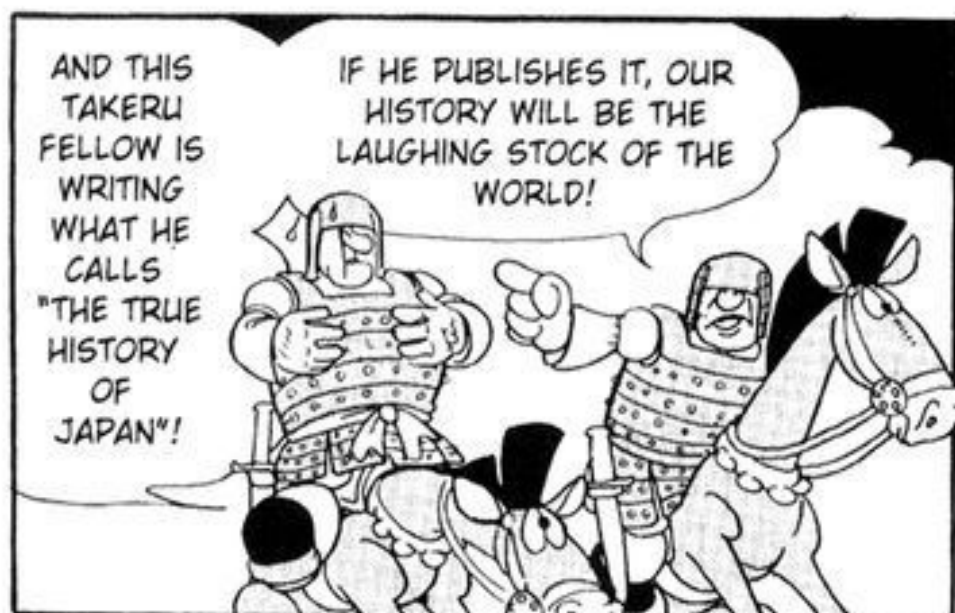


A MAN HAS  
SLANDERED  
YOUR  
HIGH-  
NESS!

WHAT?

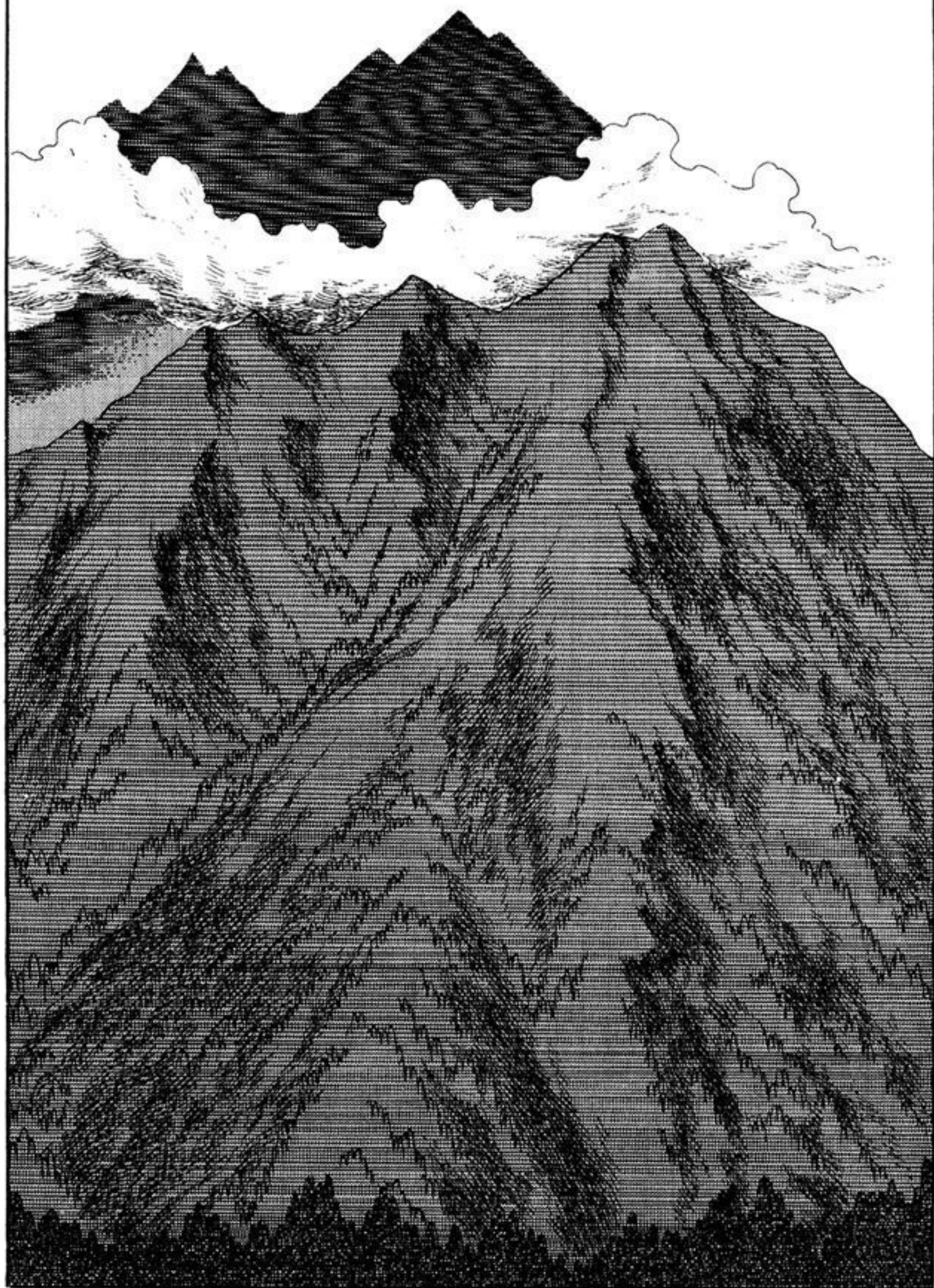
...A BARBARIAN  
CHIEFTAIN OF  
KUMASO—THE  
LAND OF THE FIRE  
MOUNTAIN...HE'S  
CALLED TAKERU  
KAWAKAMI!



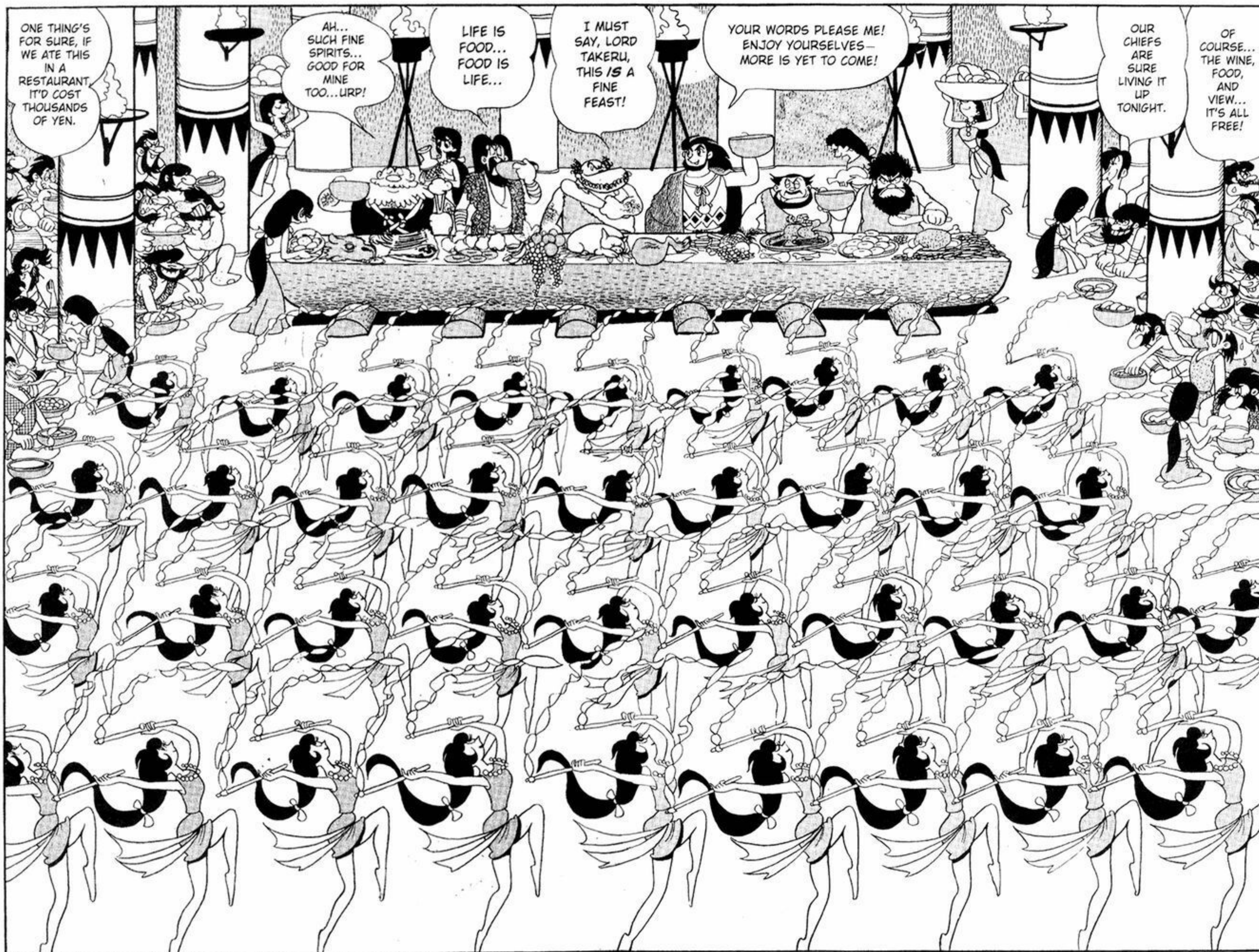




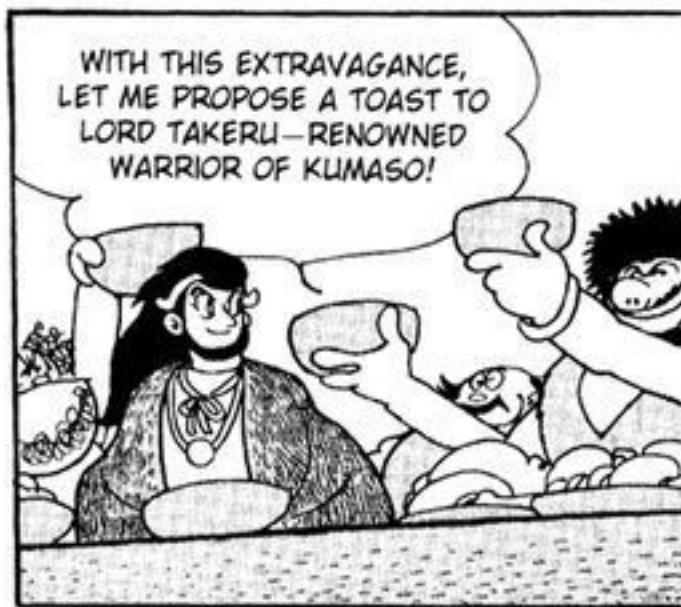
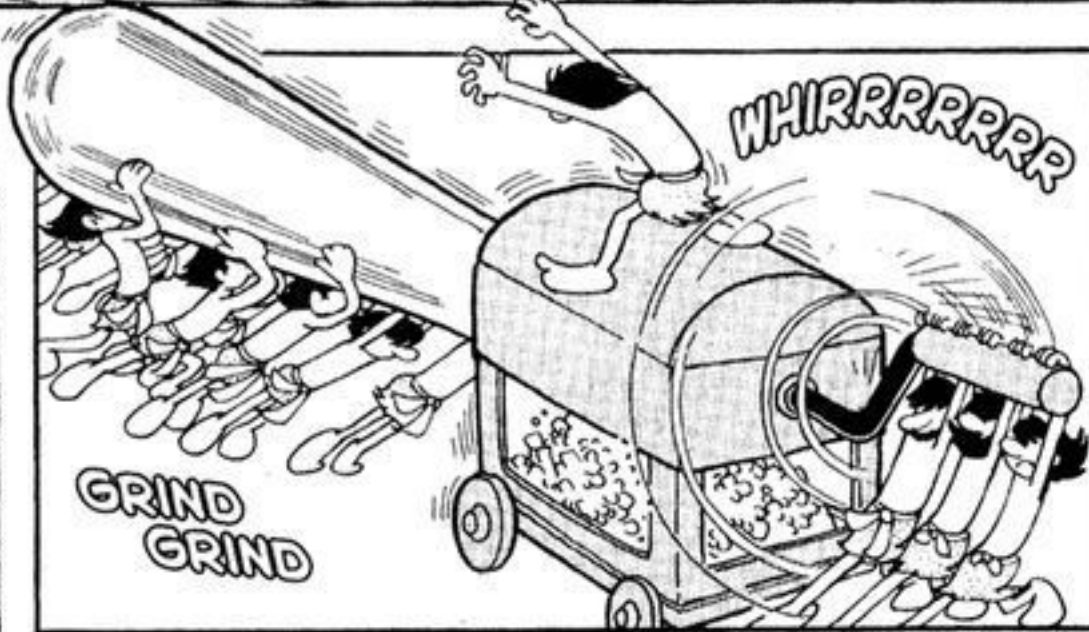
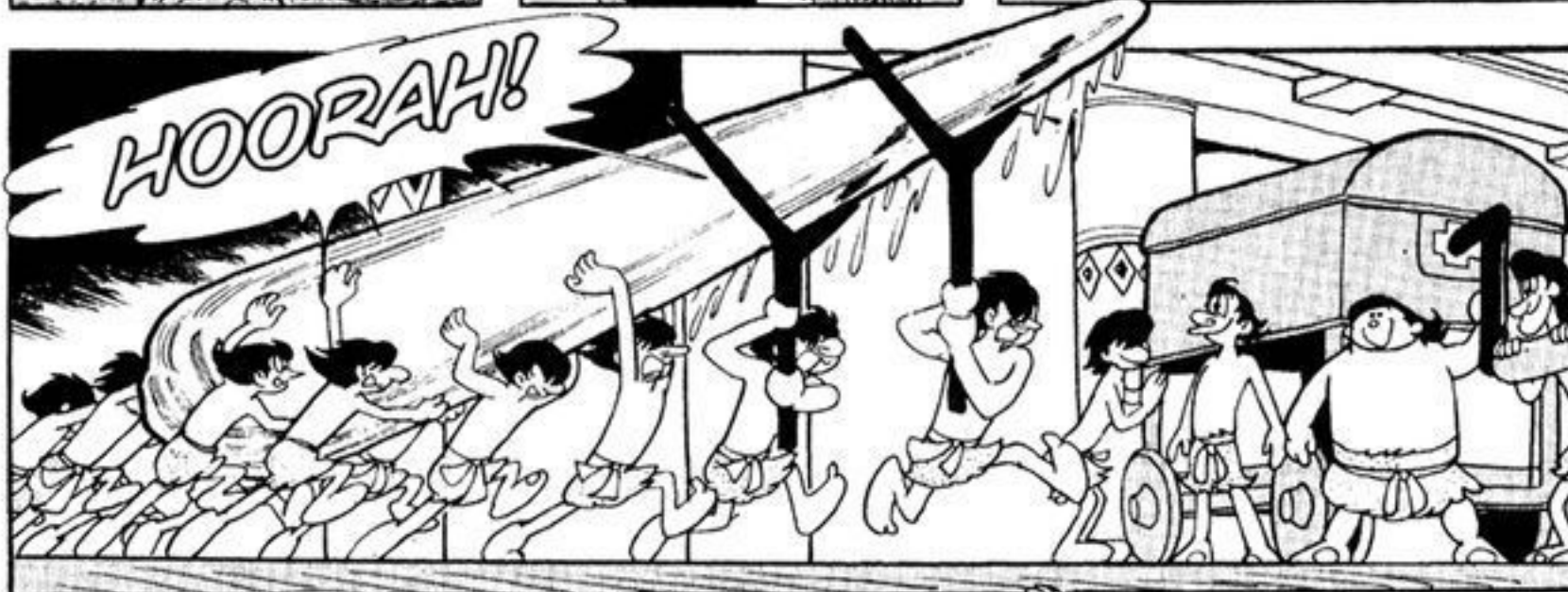
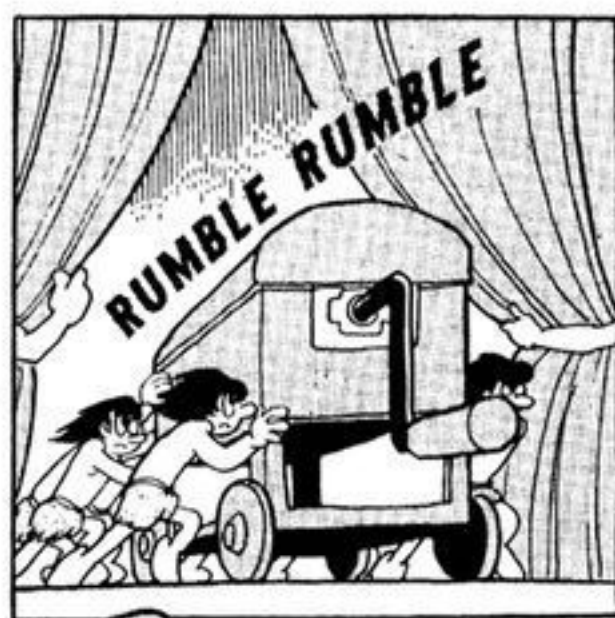
AND FAR AWAY, IN THE LAND OF FIRE...



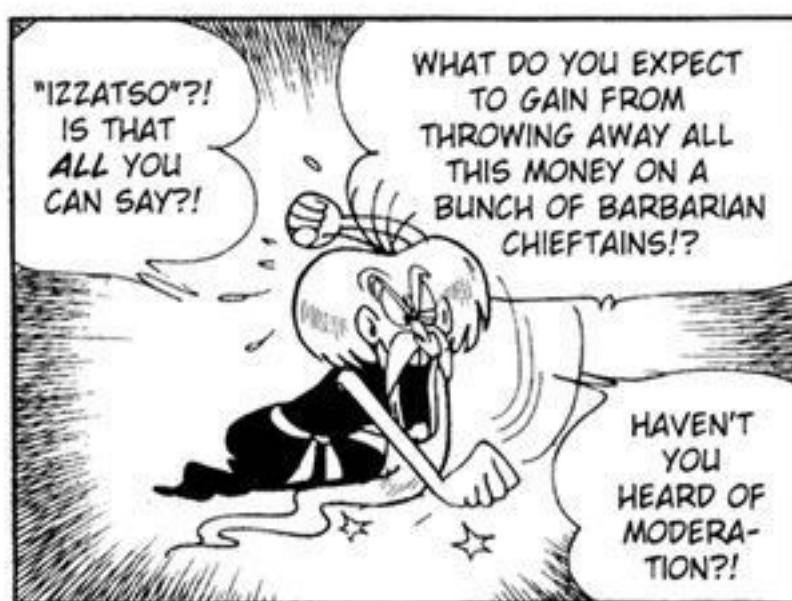
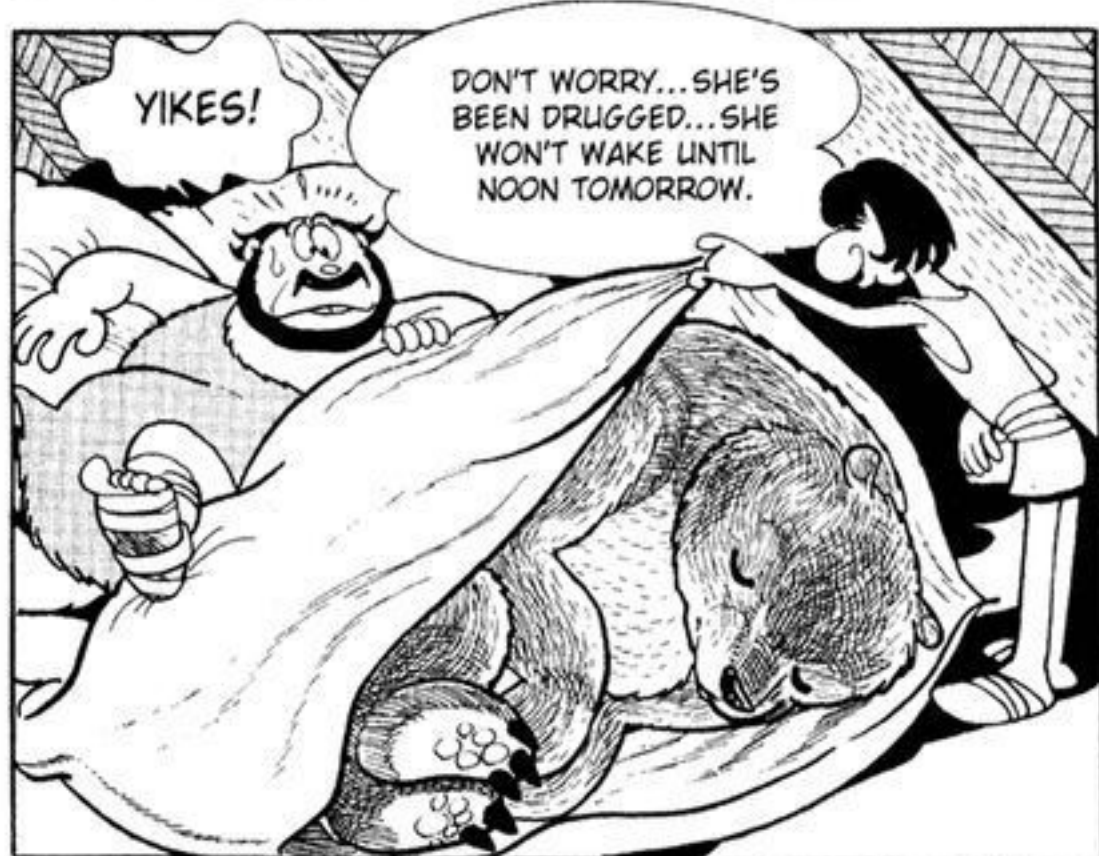




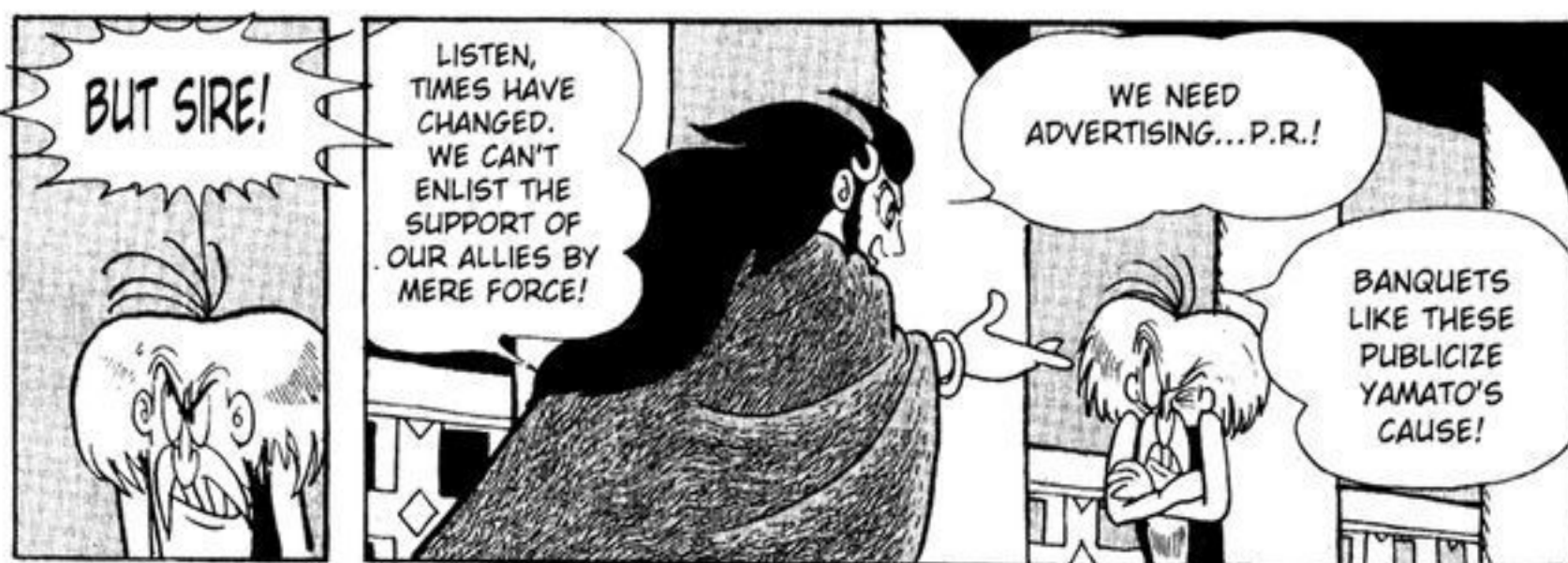




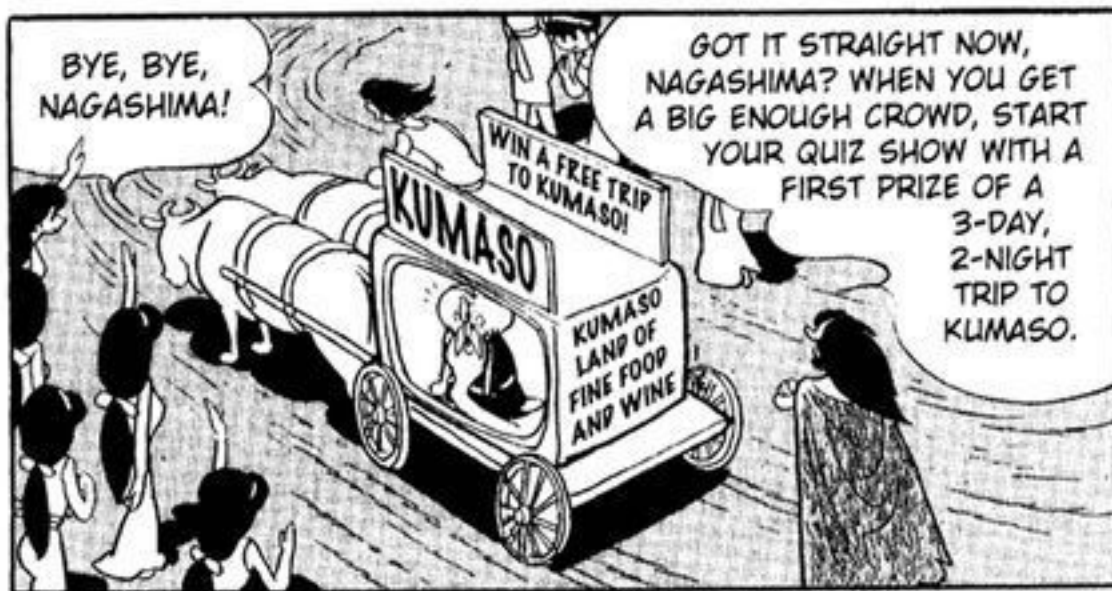




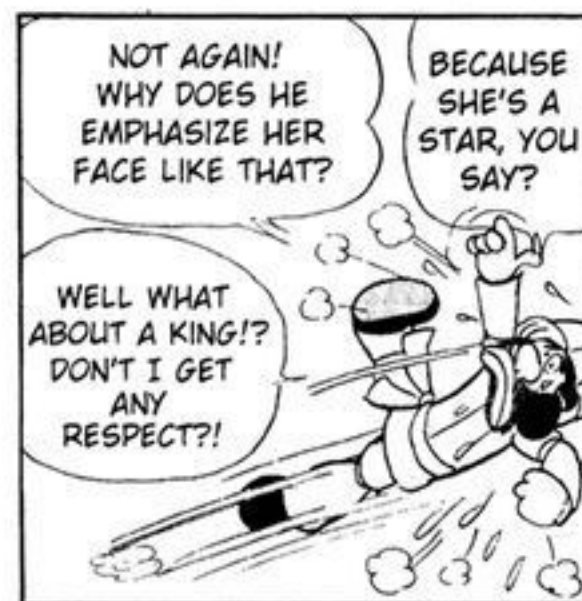
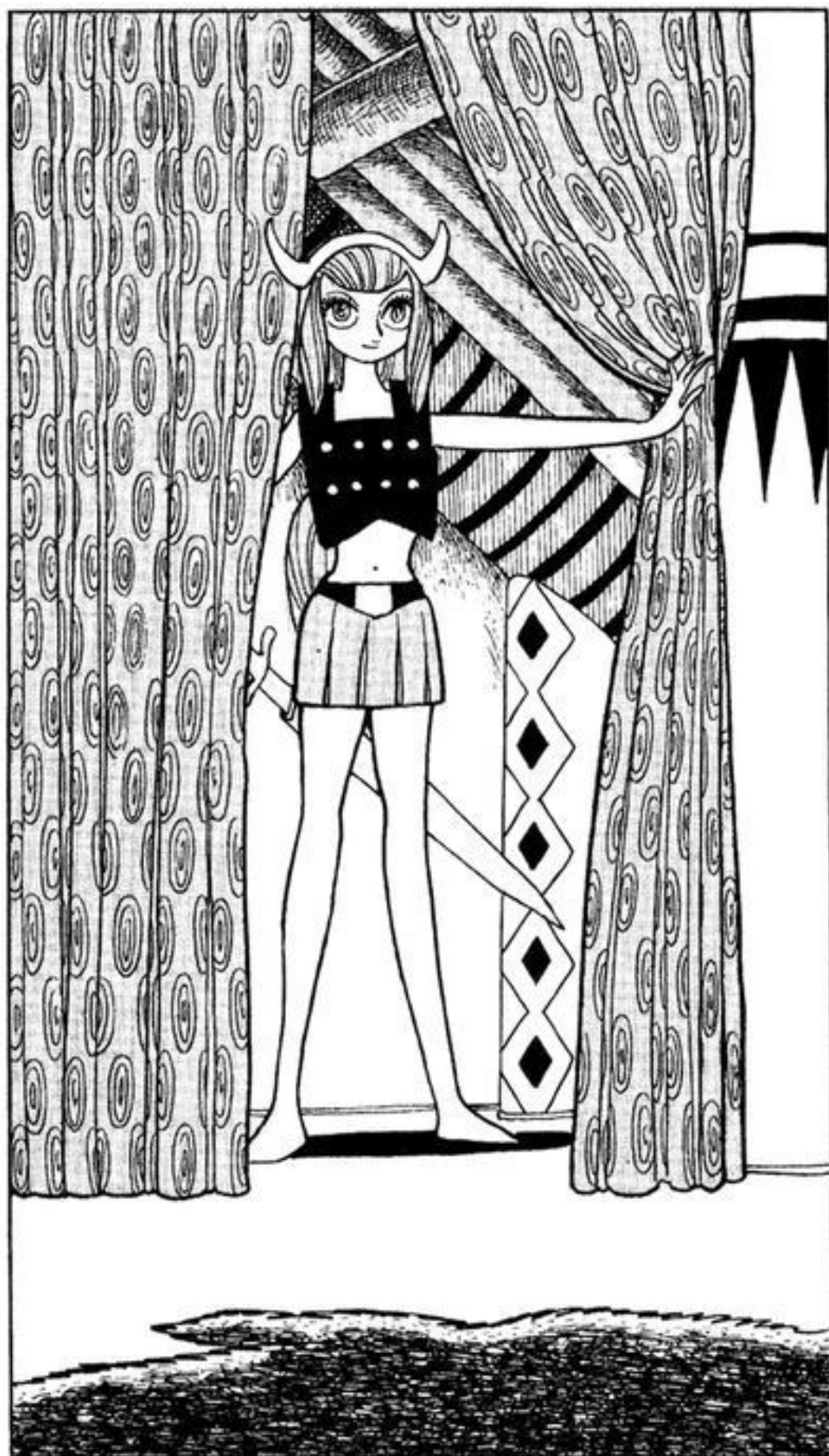




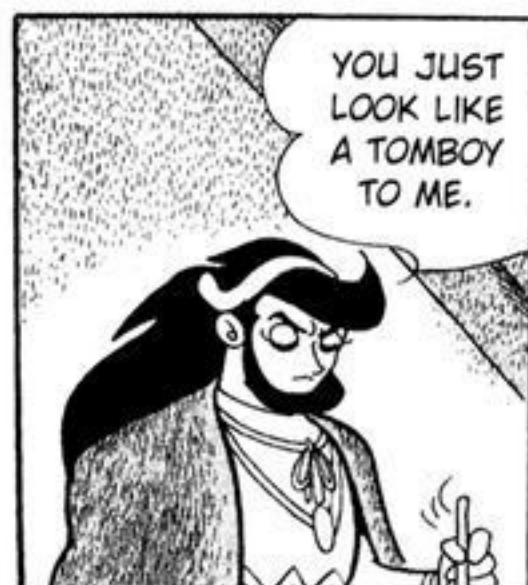
















DEAREST  
BROTHER...HOW  
I LONG FOR  
YOUR SUCCESS  
AS A POET...

FEAR NOT,  
LITTLE SISTER...  
I SHALL BE  
WORTHY OF THY  
DESIRES.



TAKERU, THE POET  
PRETENDER, IS BLESSED  
WITH A SISTER SO TENDER.  
HER EYES ARE LIKE GEMS, HER  
SMILE CONDESCENDS, AND BEARS  
AND WOLVES ALL BEFRIEND HER.

SIGH

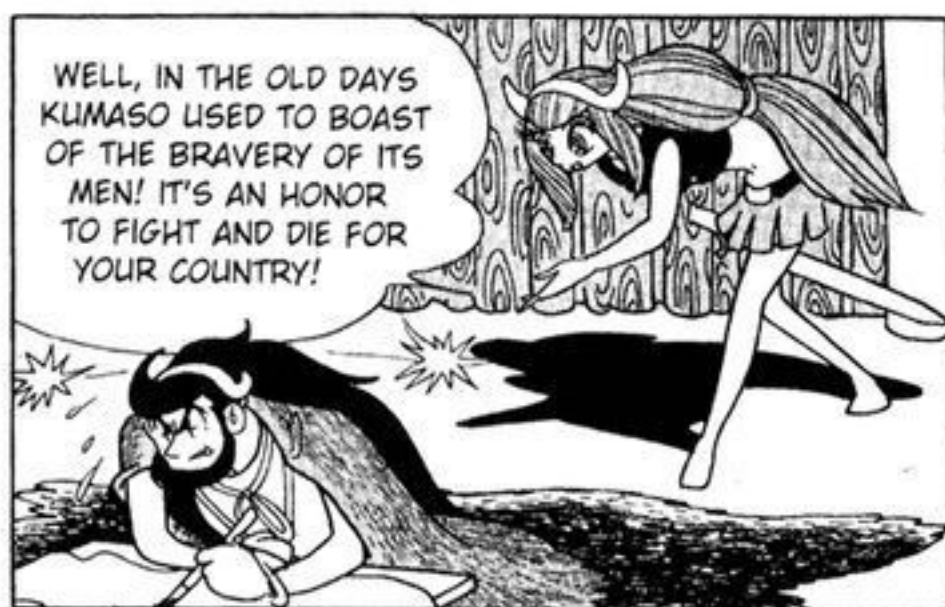
OH, YOU'RE  
SO CUTE...



THAT'S EXACTLY THE  
SORT OF SENTIMENTAL  
MUSH I  
HATE!

ENOUGH! GO  
AWAY AND  
LEAVE ME IN  
PEACE!

I'M  
NOT WRITING  
POETRY! I'M  
WRITING HISTORY.  
THE TRUE  
HISTORY OF  
KUMASO!

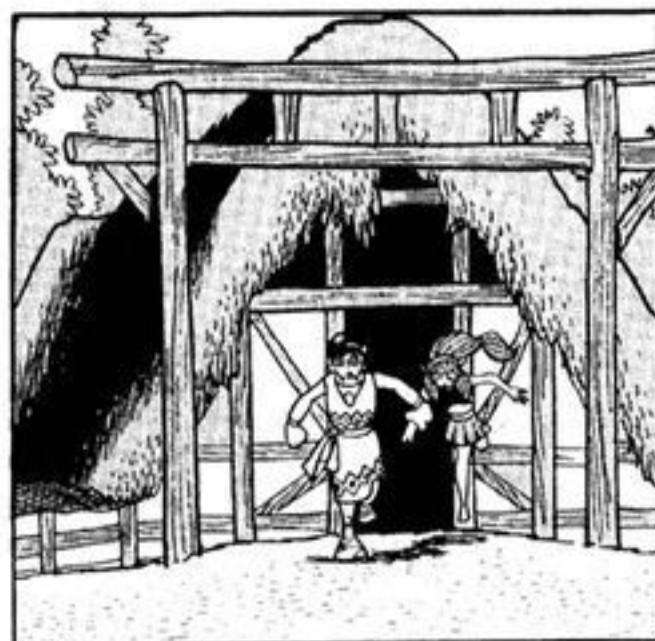
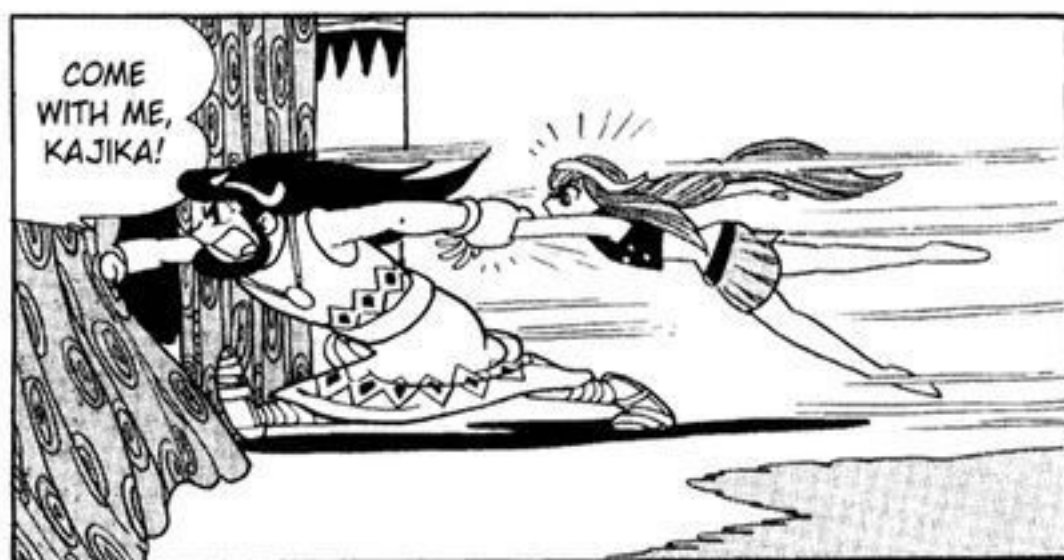


WELL, IN THE OLD DAYS  
KUMASO USED TO BOAST  
OF THE BRAVERY OF ITS  
MEN! IT'S AN HONOR  
TO FIGHT AND DIE FOR  
YOUR COUNTRY!

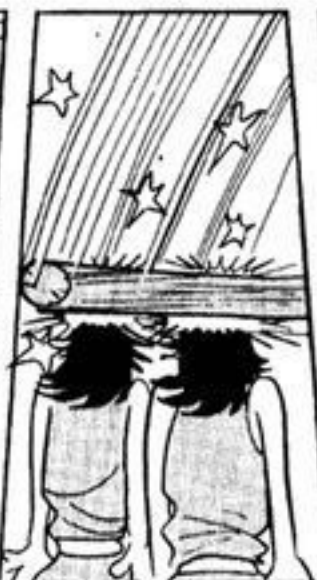


YOU JUST SIT  
AROUND HERE LIKE  
AN OLD MONKEY  
AND SCRATCH YOUR  
FLEAS!

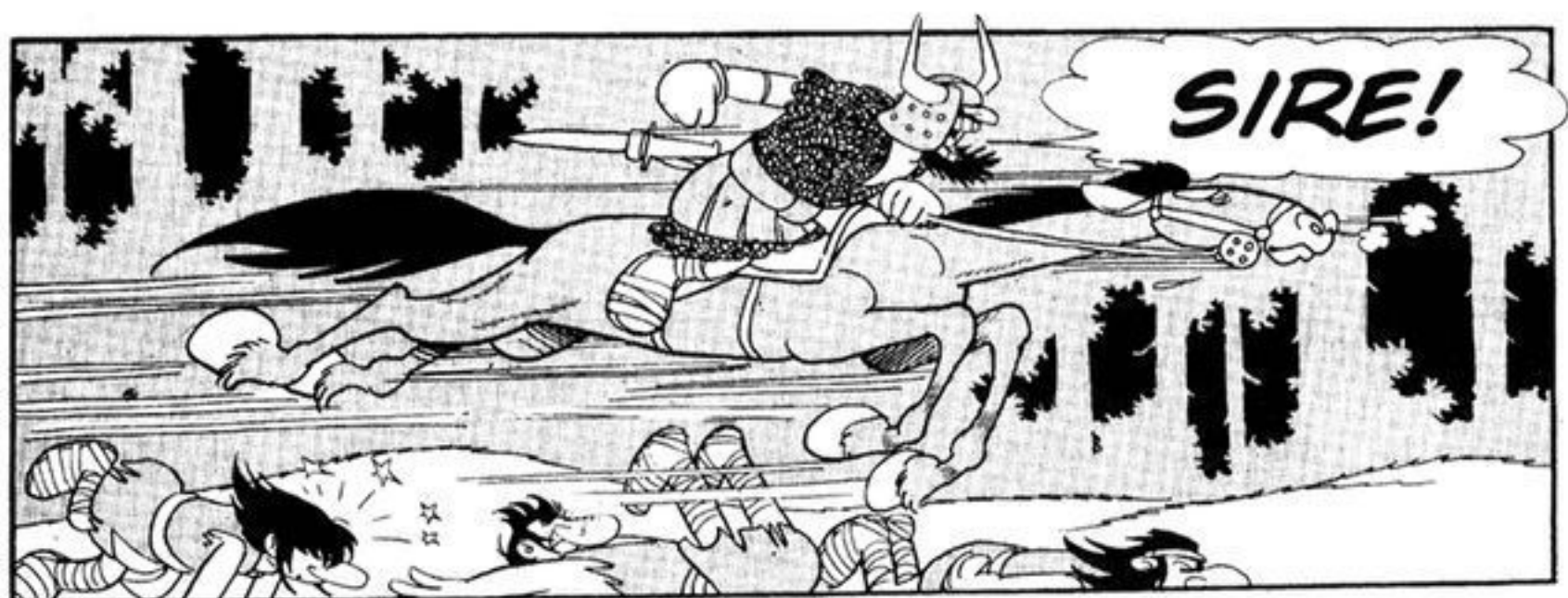




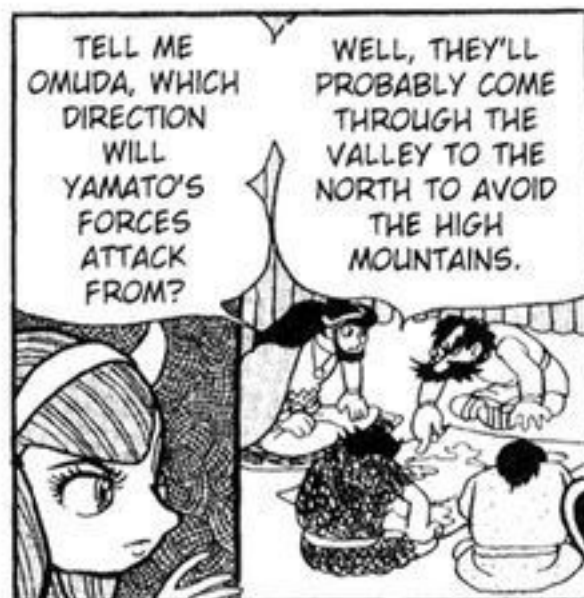




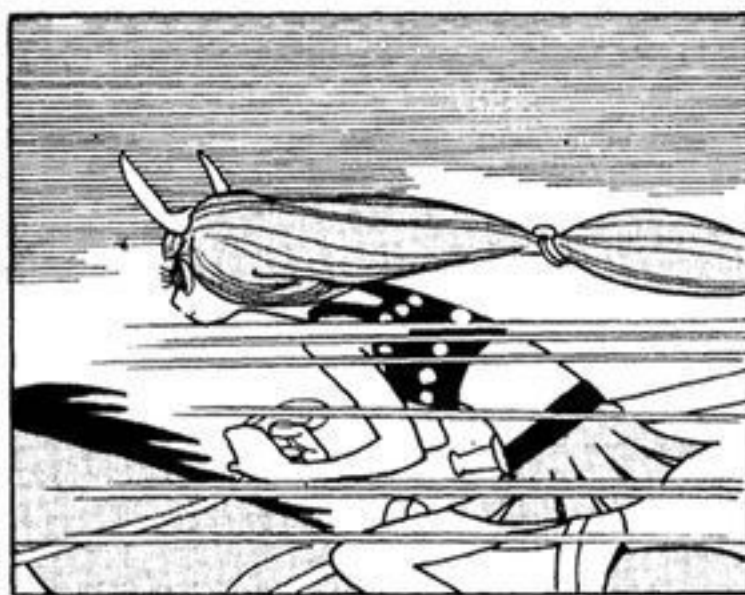
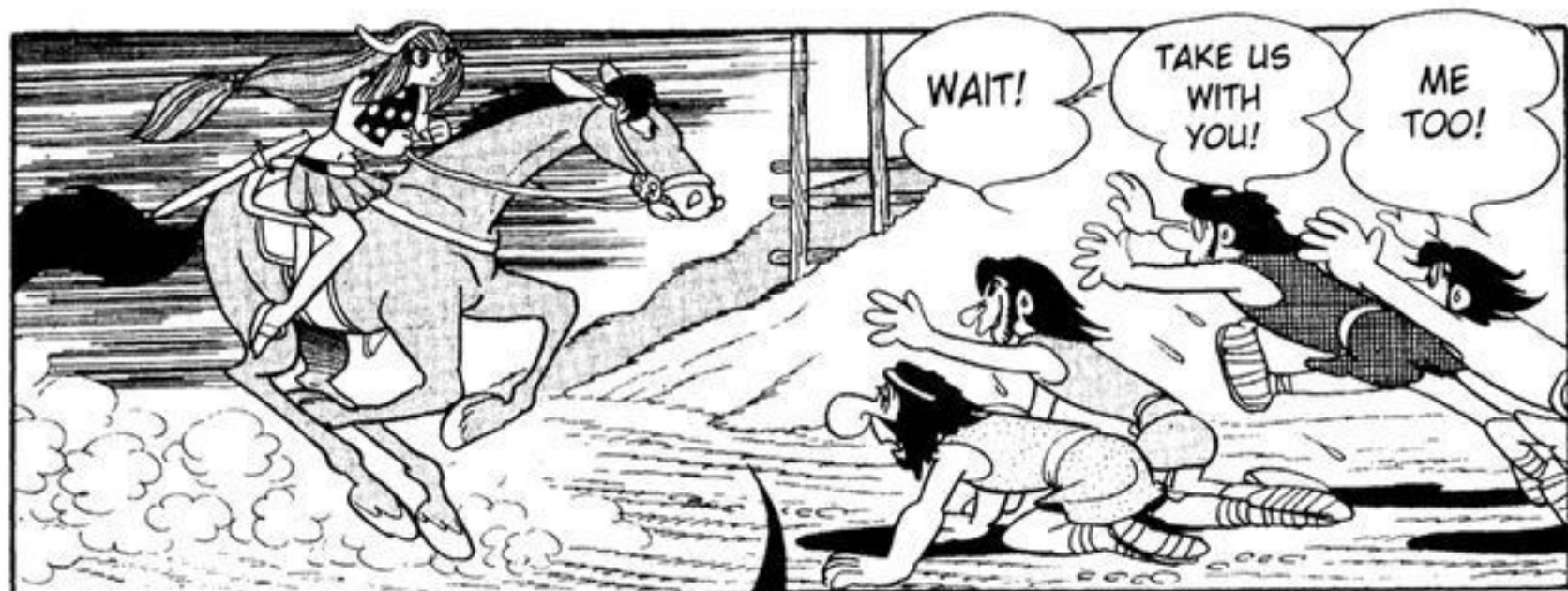








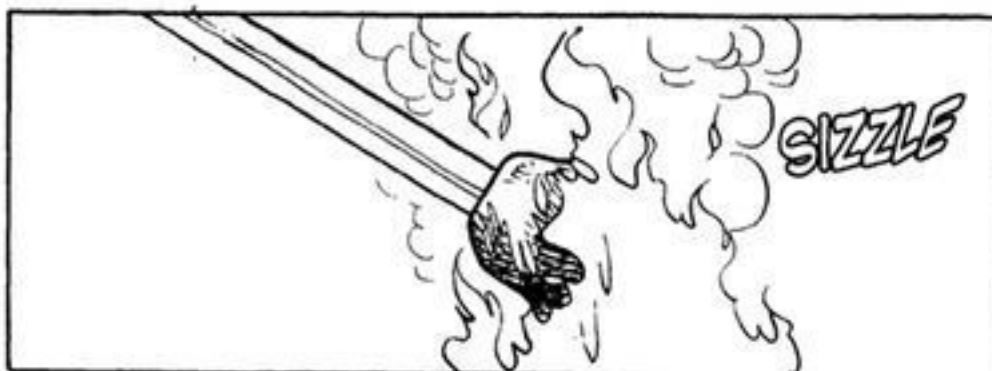




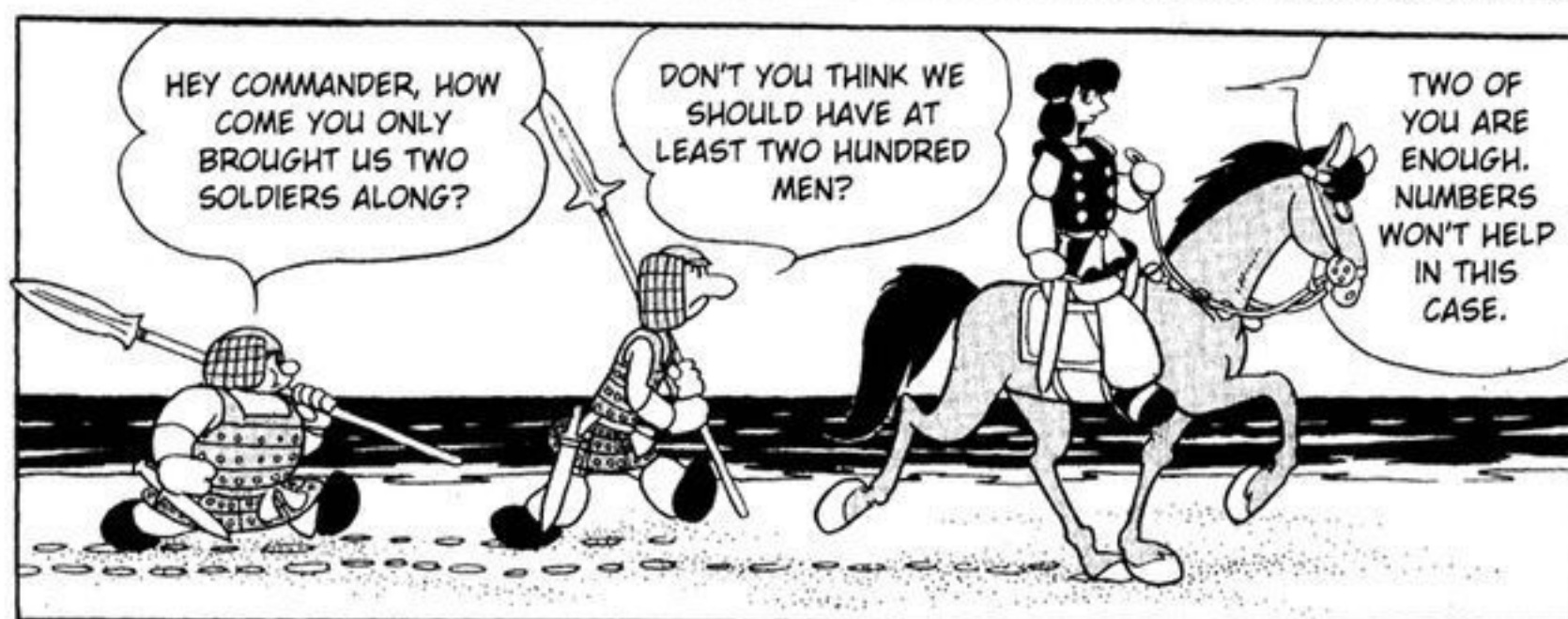
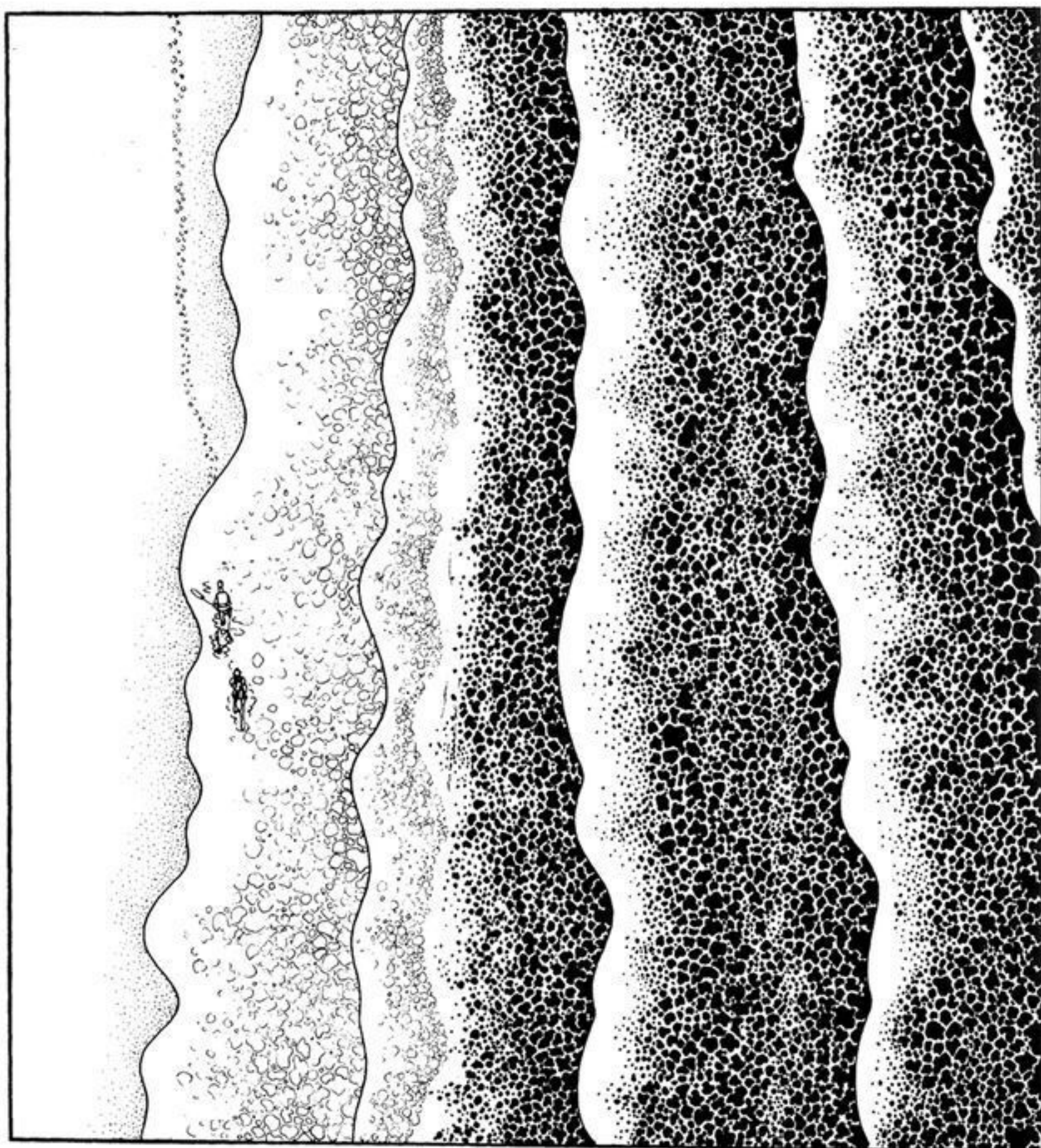




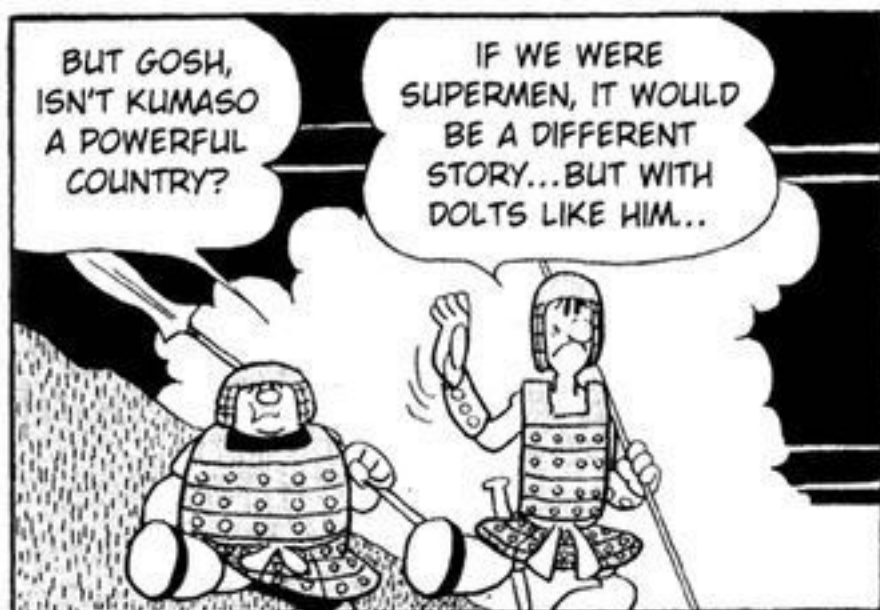




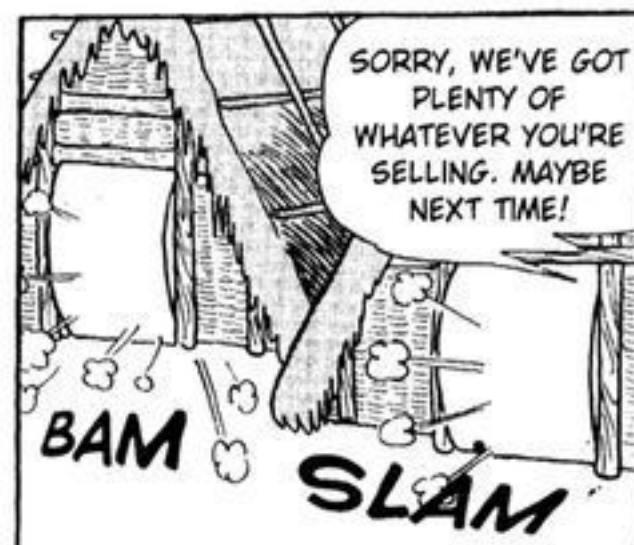
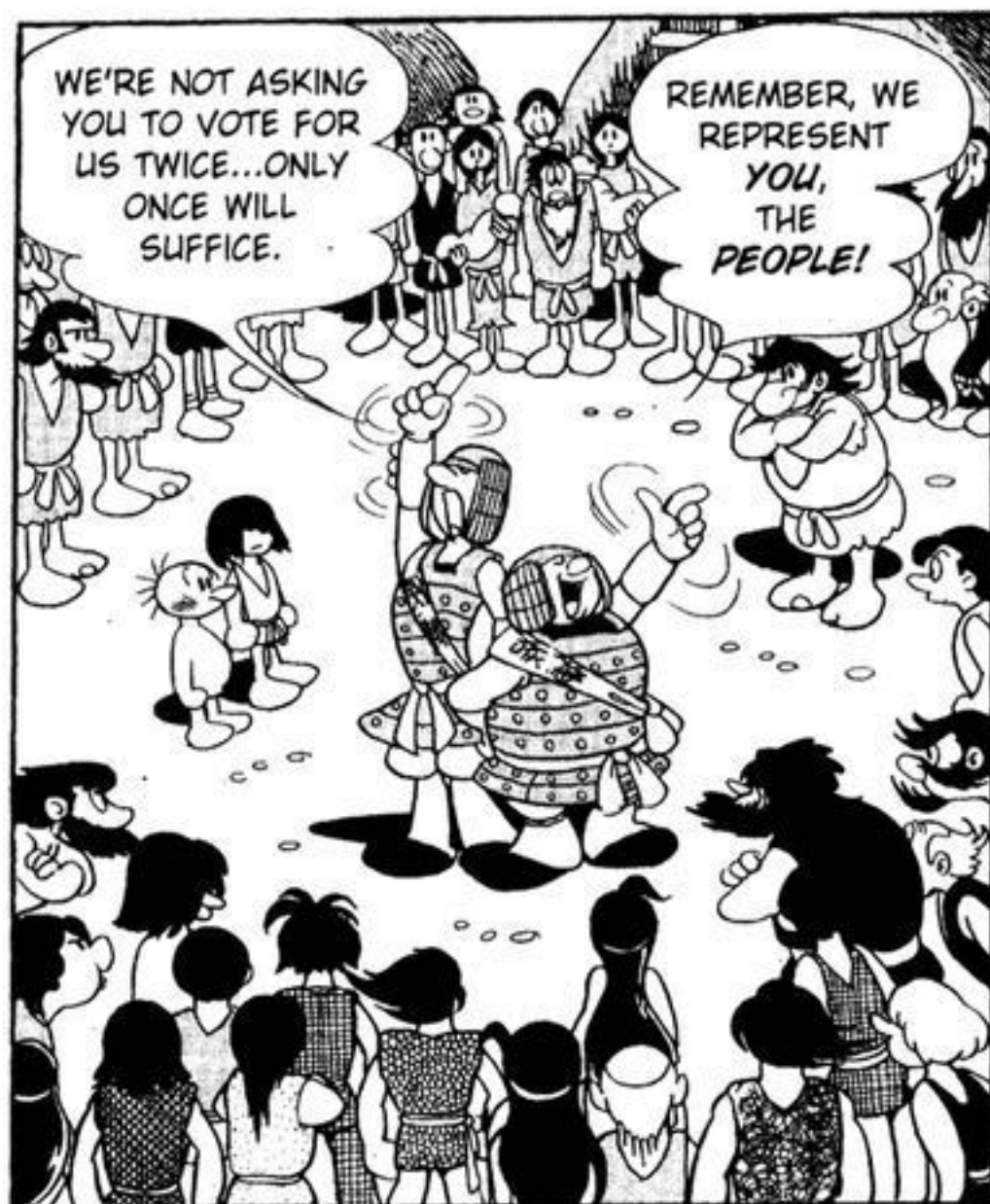
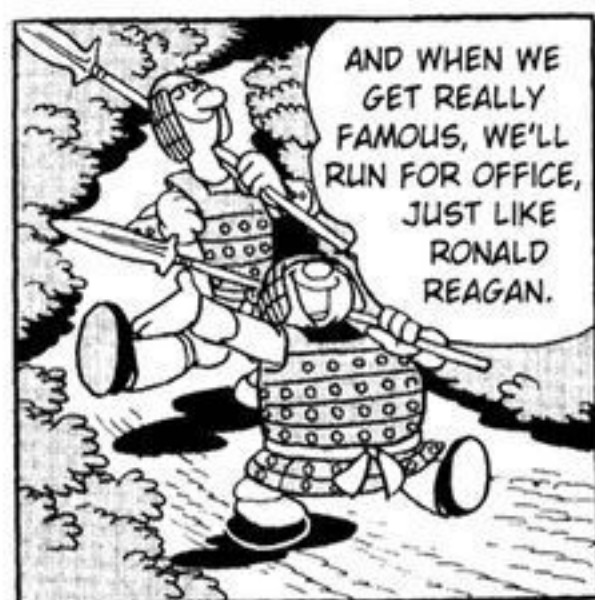
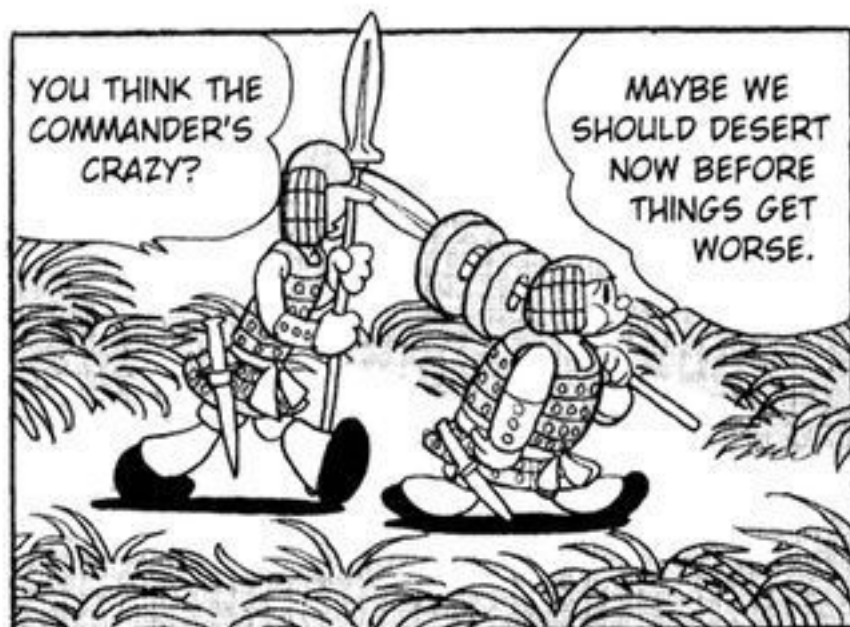




















B-BUT  
WHAT IF THEY  
CATCH ON TO  
YOUR PLAN  
BEFORE YOU  
CAN CARRY IT  
OUT?

WHAT WILL  
HAPPEN WILL  
HAPPEN. WE  
JUST HAVE TO  
LEAVE IT TO  
FATE.



LOOK.  
SEE THAT  
SMOKE?



IT'S COMING  
FROM THE  
MOUTH OF  
THE FIRE  
MOUNTAIN.

ONCE YOU CAN SEE  
THAT SMOKE,  
YOU'RE IN KUMASO  
TERRITORY.  
STAY ALERT NOW.

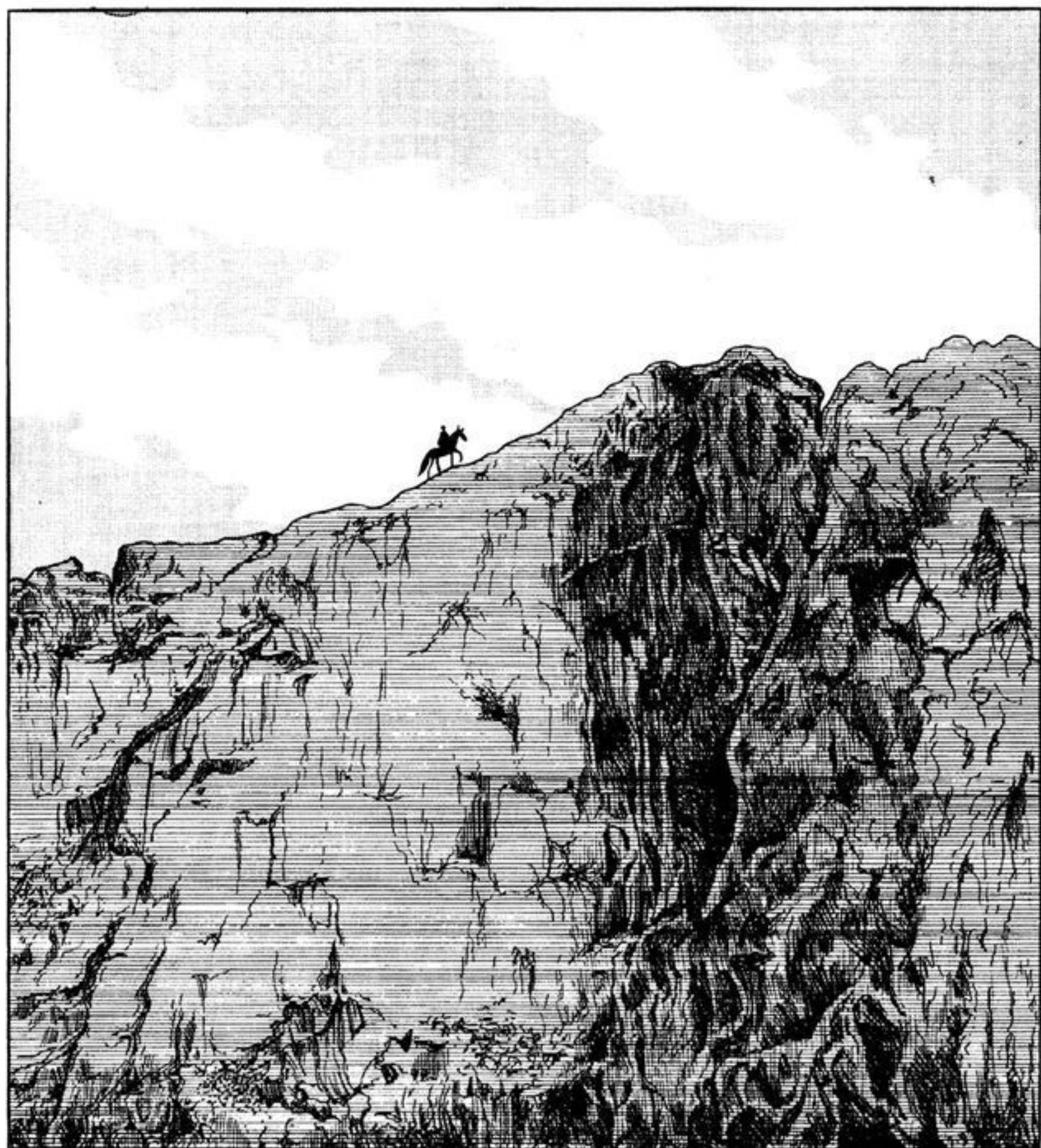


OH NO...  
OH NO...  
WE'RE  
FINALLY  
HERE...

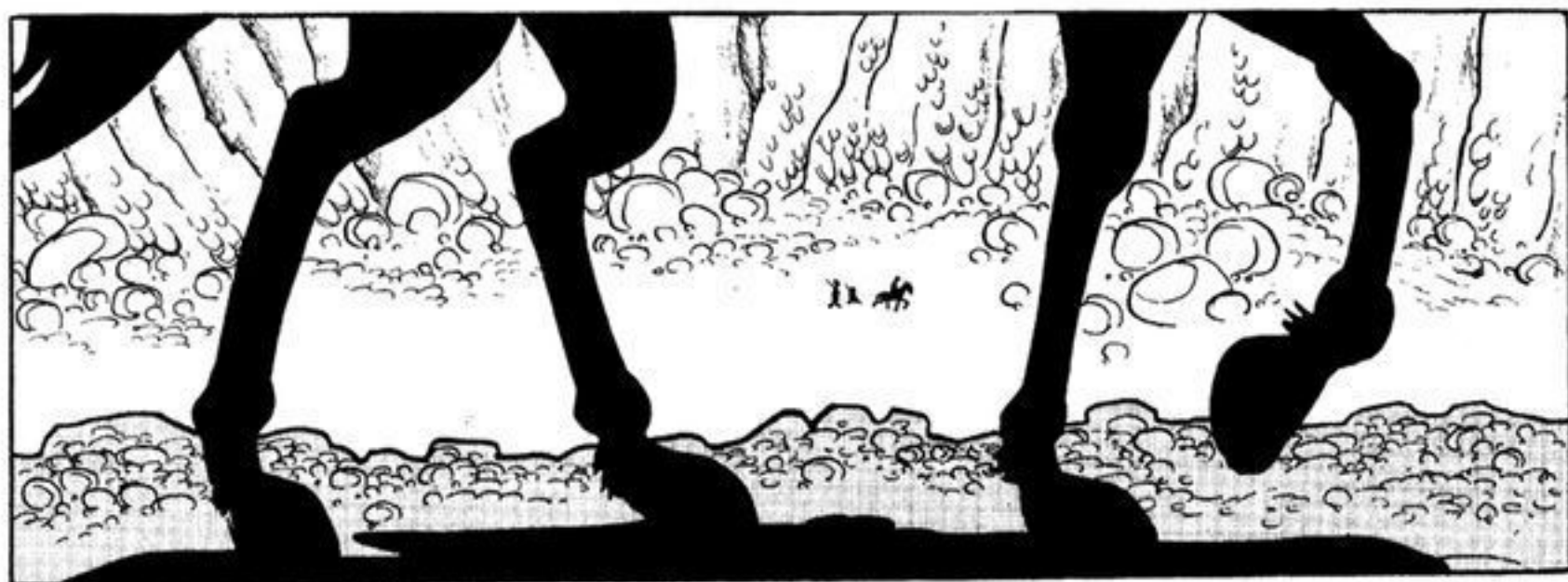
I JUST  
REMEMBERED...  
I'VE GOT A DENTIST  
APPOINTMENT BACK  
HOME...



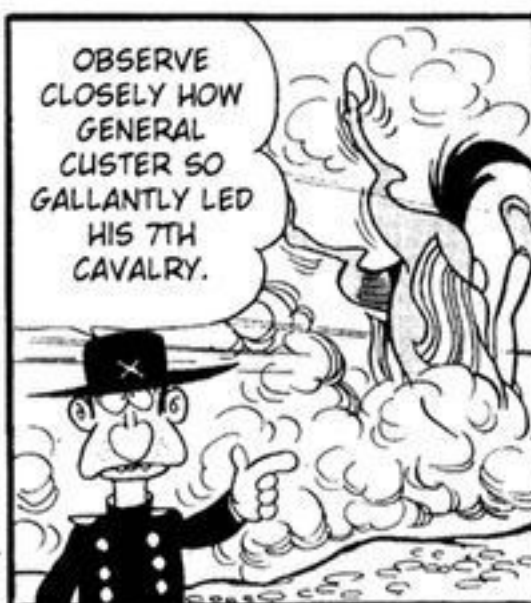








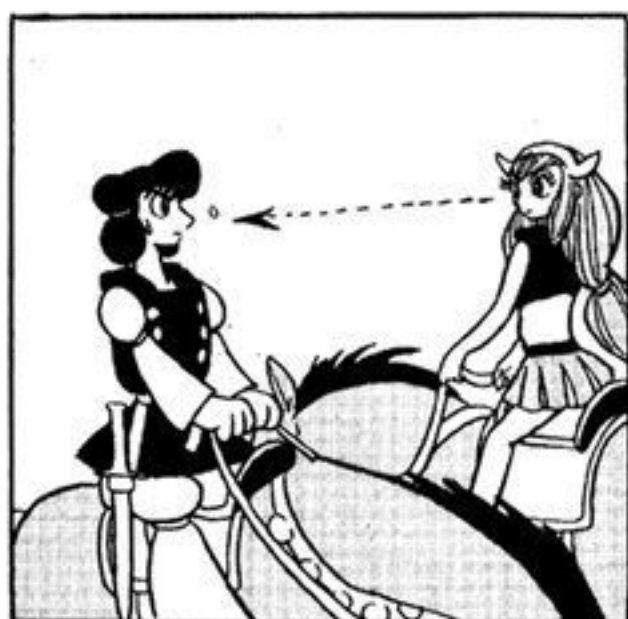




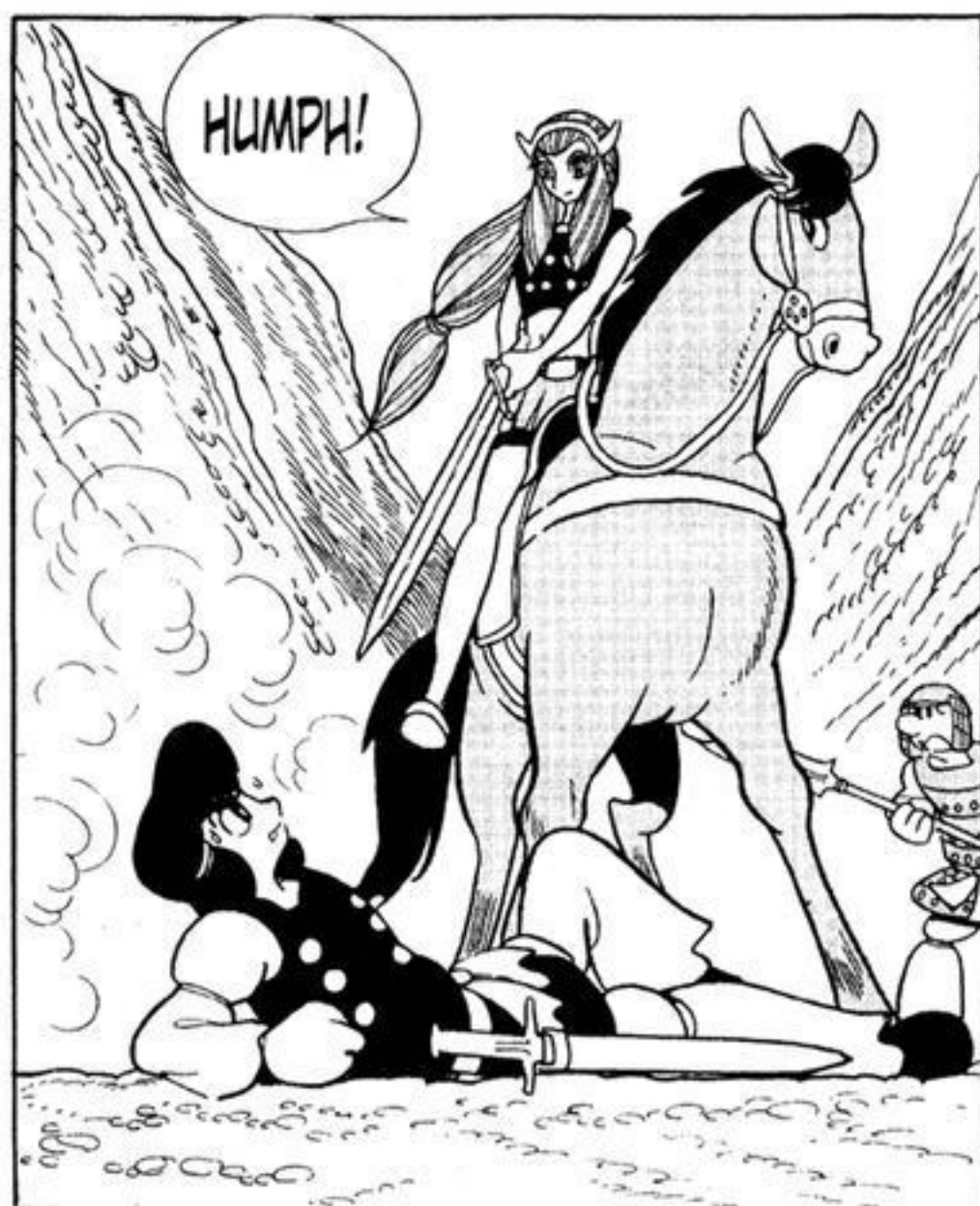




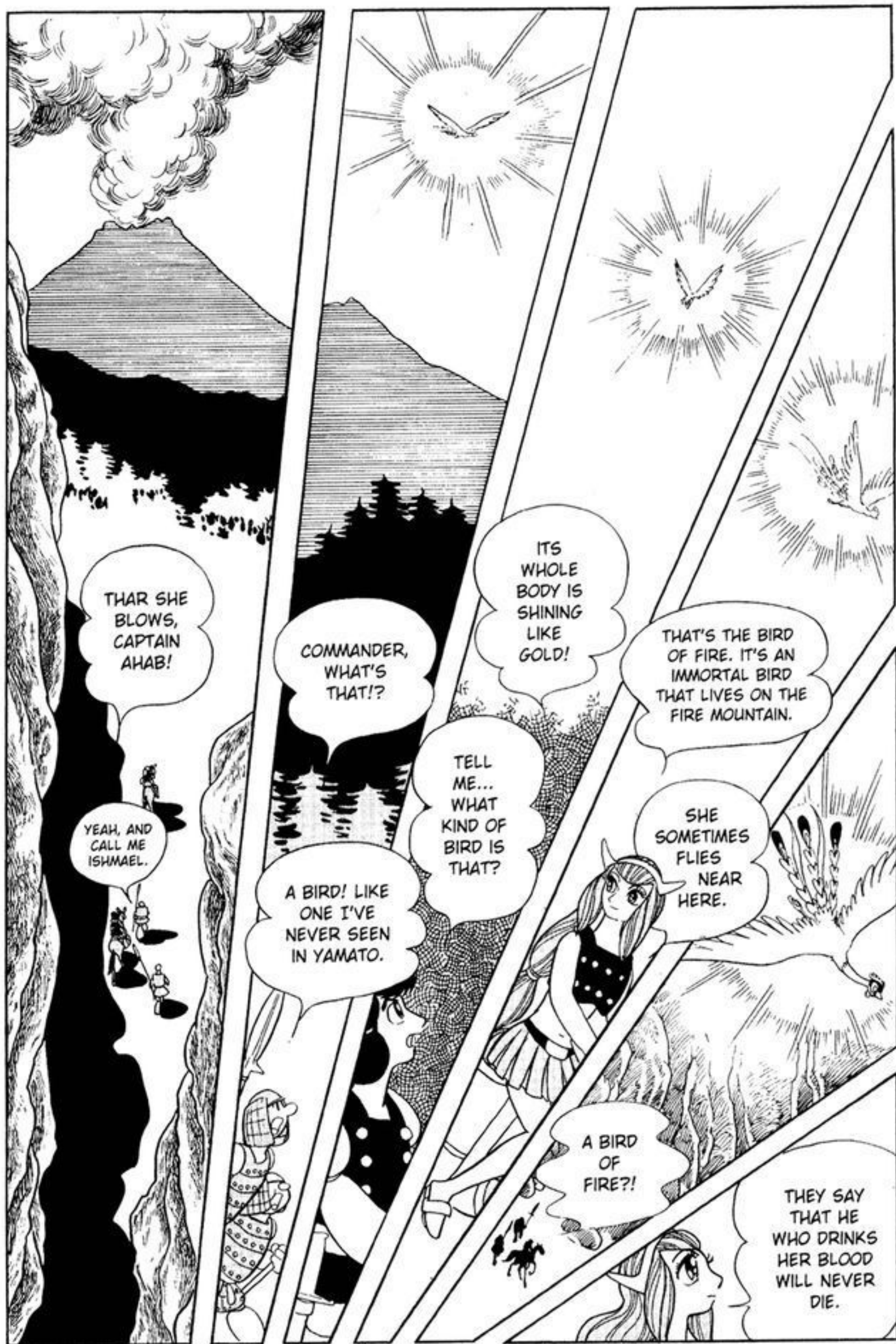












THAT SHE  
BLOWS,  
CAPTAIN  
AHAB!

YEAH, AND  
CALL ME  
ISHMAEL.

COMMANDER,  
WHAT'S  
THAT!?

A BIRD! LIKE  
ONE I'VE  
NEVER SEEN  
IN YAMATO.

TELL  
ME...  
WHAT  
KIND OF  
BIRD IS  
THAT?

ITS  
WHOLE  
BODY IS  
SHINING  
LIKE  
GOLD!

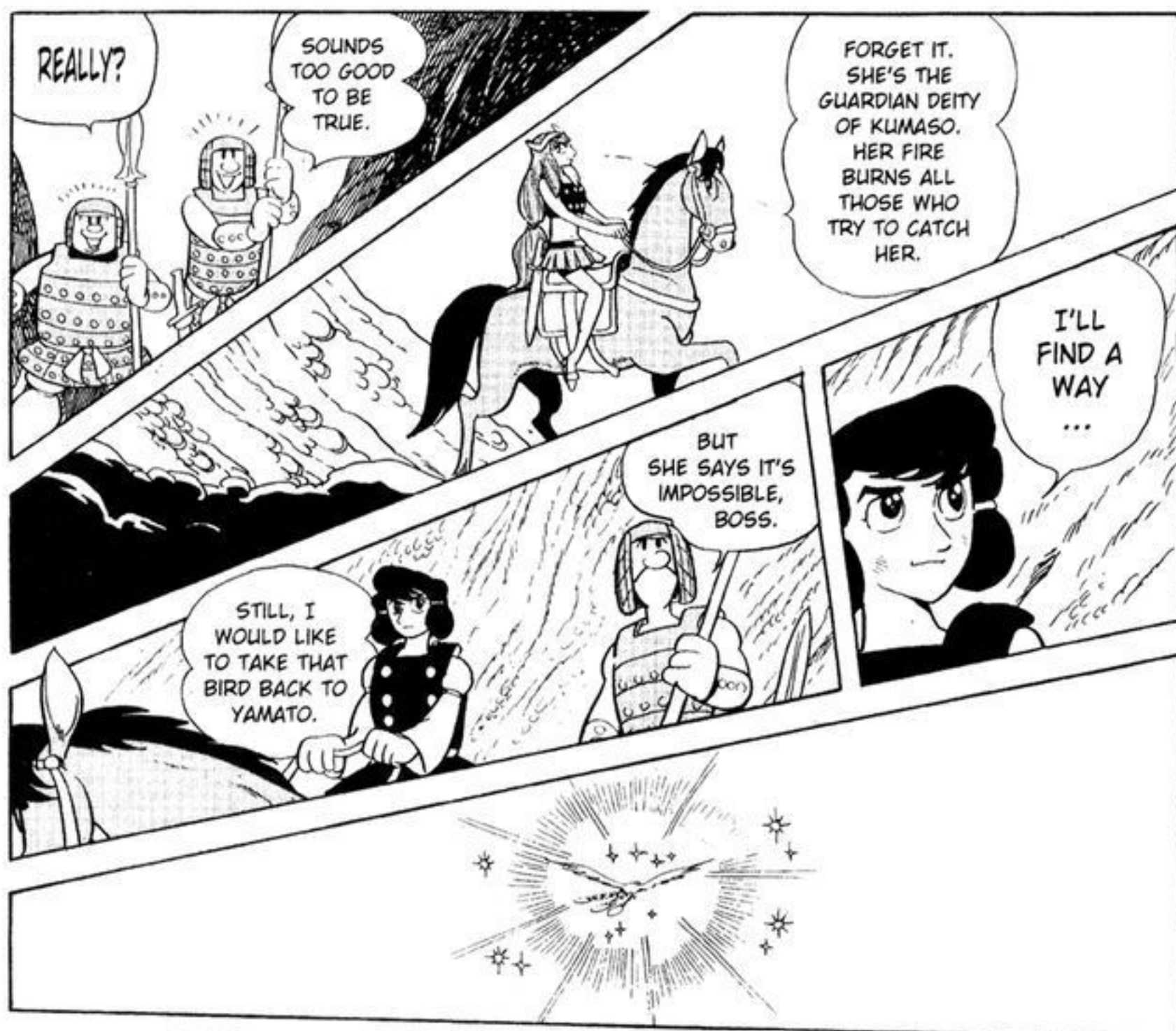
THAT'S THE BIRD  
OF FIRE. IT'S AN  
IMMORTAL BIRD  
THAT LIVES ON THE  
FIRE MOUNTAIN.

SHE  
SOMETIMES  
FLIES  
NEAR  
HERE.

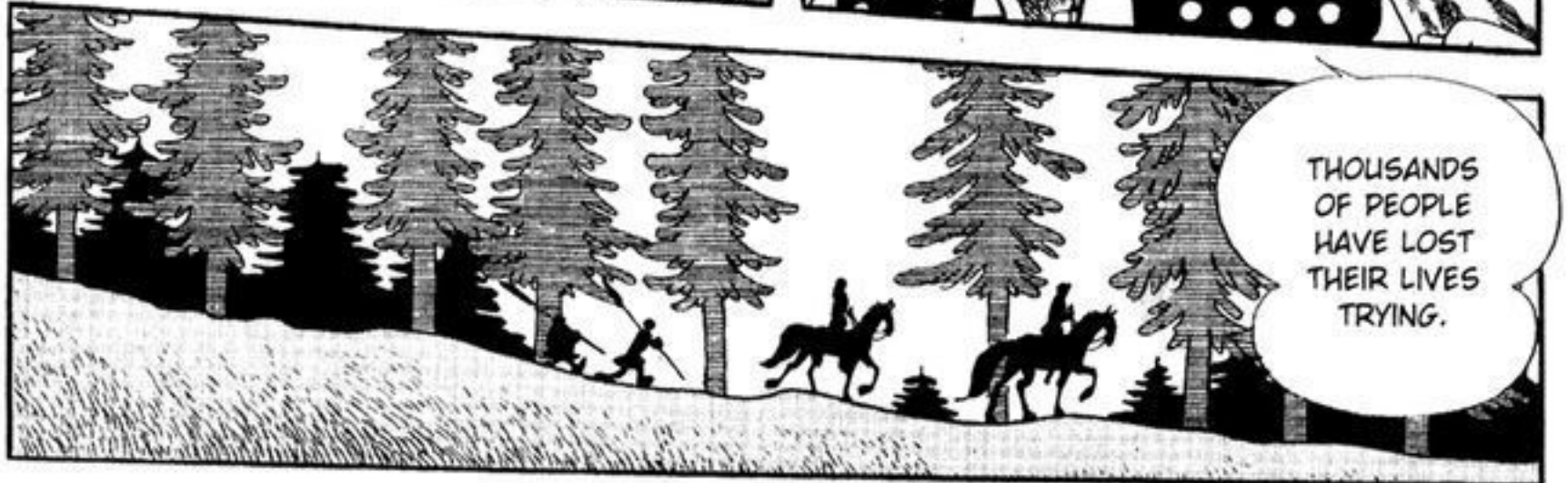
A BIRD  
OF  
FIRE?!

THEY SAY  
THAT HE  
WHO DRINKS  
HER BLOOD  
WILL NEVER  
DIE.









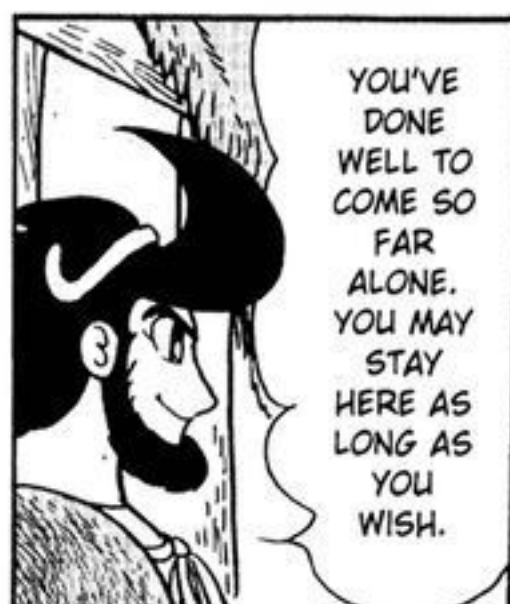








I AM OGUNA,  
YOUNGEST  
SON OF THE  
KING OF  
YAMATO.



YOU'VE  
DONE  
WELL TO  
COME SO  
FAR  
ALONE.  
YOU MAY  
STAY  
HERE AS  
LONG AS  
YOU  
WISH.



THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR CONCERN,  
BUT I CANNOT  
SLEEP IN A  
KUMASO HUT.

AND WHY  
IS THAT?



WHEN I  
ENTER A  
KUMASO  
DWELLING  
...

IT WILL  
ONLY BE IN  
TRIUMPH...

OR  
DEFEAT.



WE ARE,  
AFTER ALL,  
ENEMIES.

AH...  
OF  
COURSE.



I'LL FIX THE  
CONCEITED  
RUNT!



**IMARI!**  
**STOP!**



LISTEN CHIEF, HE  
SAID WE'RE  
ENEMIES, SO WHY  
SHOULD I  
HESITATE?

SOUNDS  
LIKE  
MURDER  
TO ME.

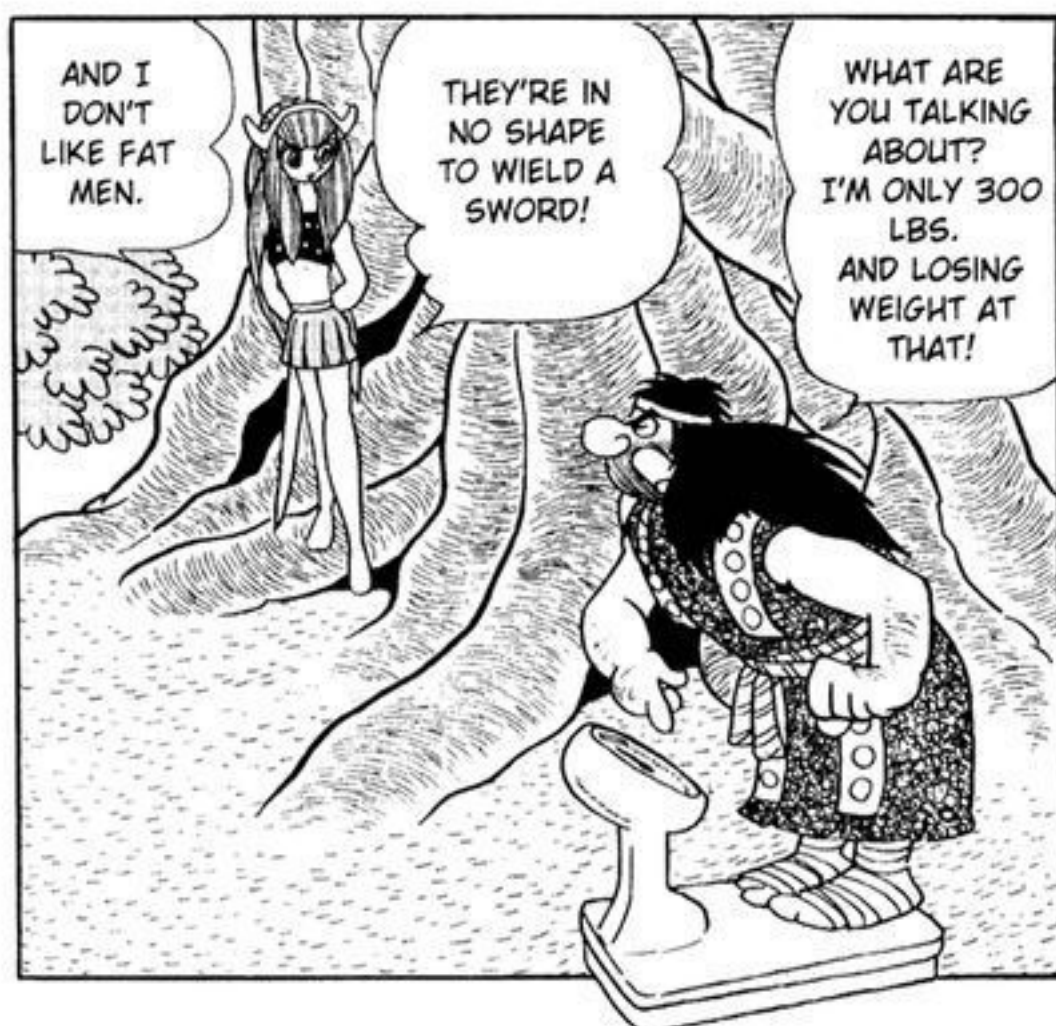
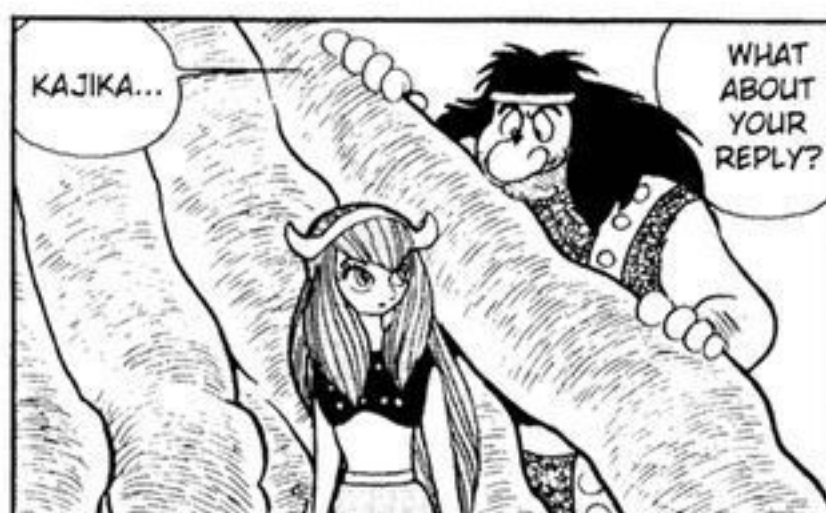


YOU'RE A  
HOT-  
BLOODED  
FOOL,  
IMARI.

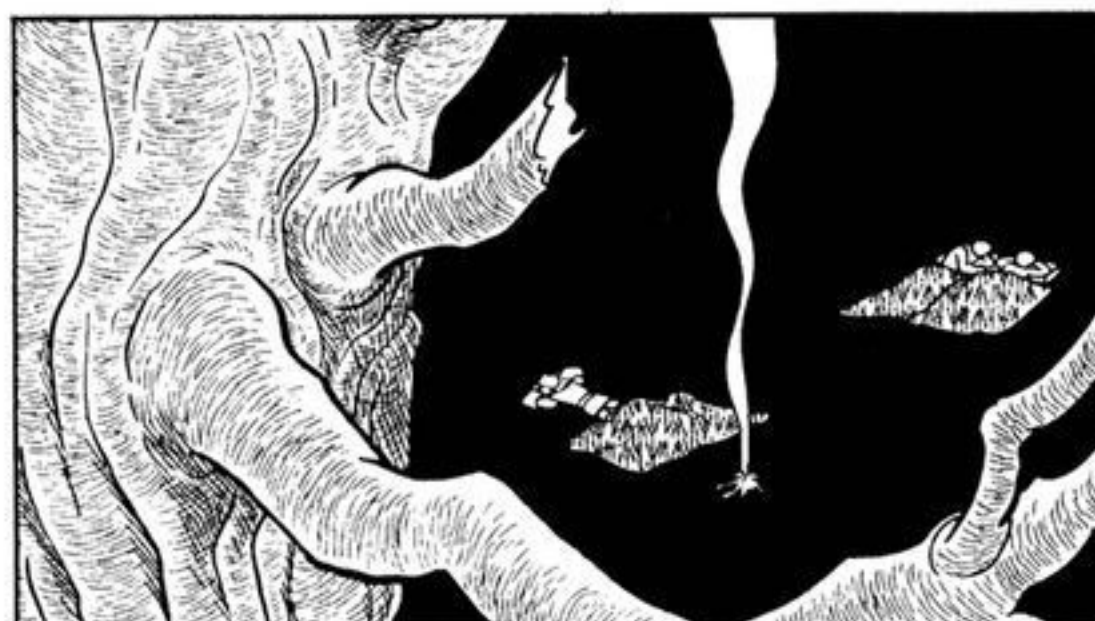
BESIDES,  
WHEN THE  
TIME COMES,  
I WON'T NEED  
YOUR HELP.

WE CAN KILL  
THEM ANYTIME,  
SO LET THEM BE  
FOR NOW.





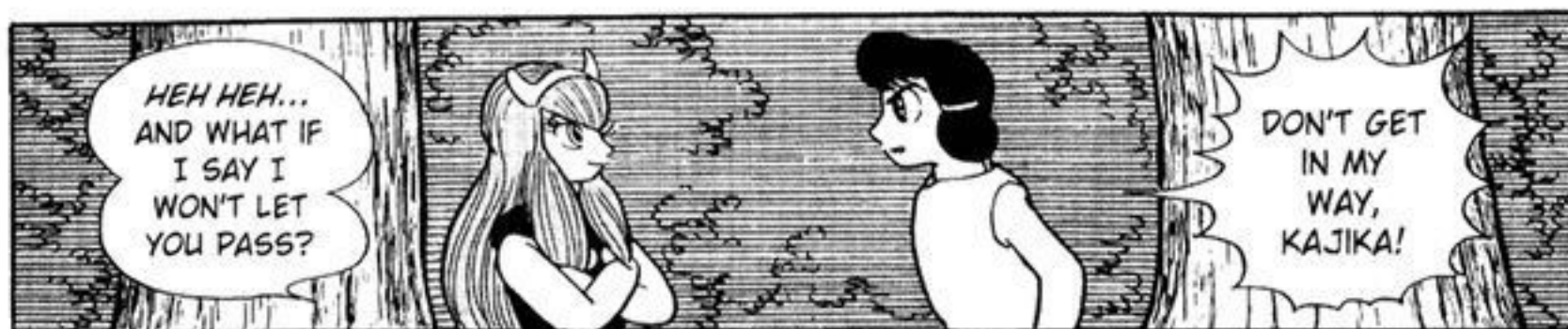








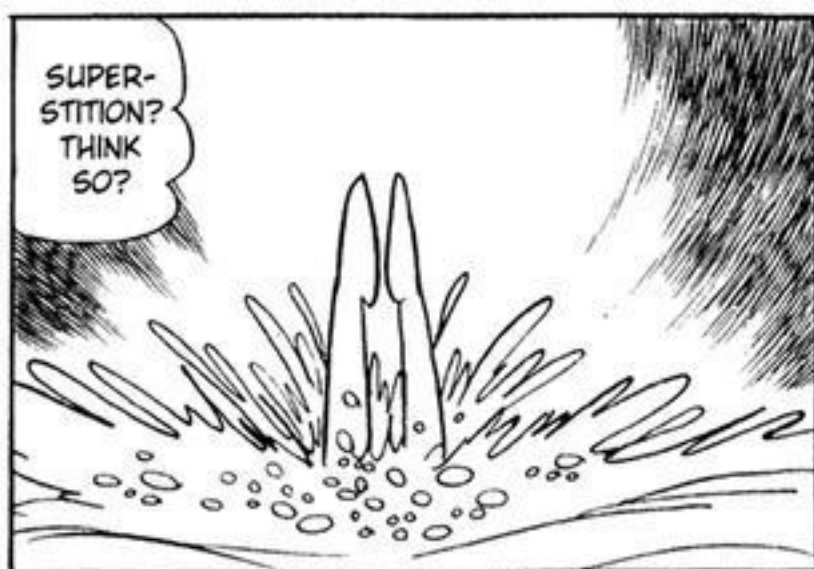




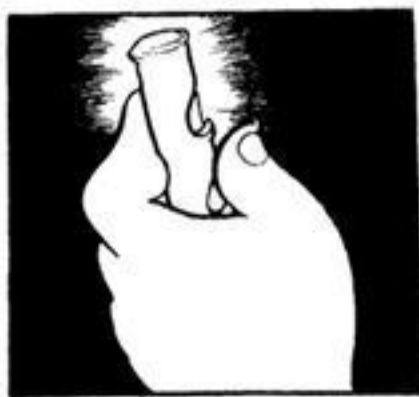




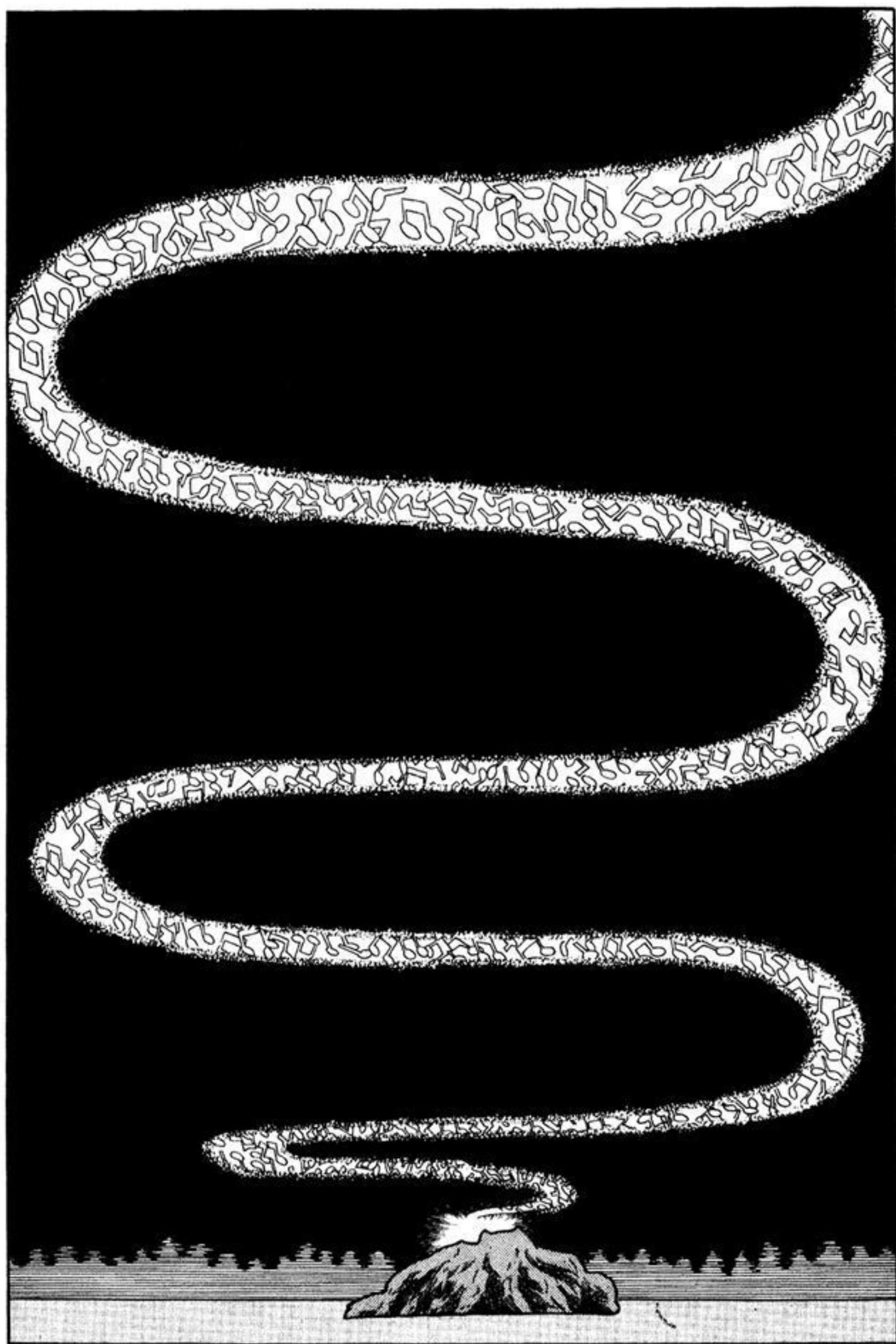




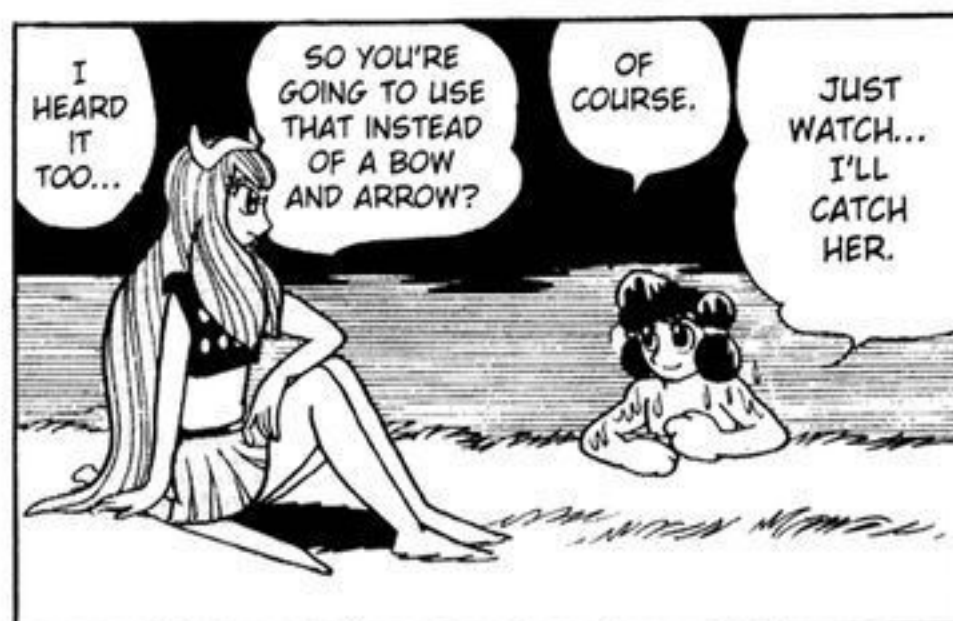
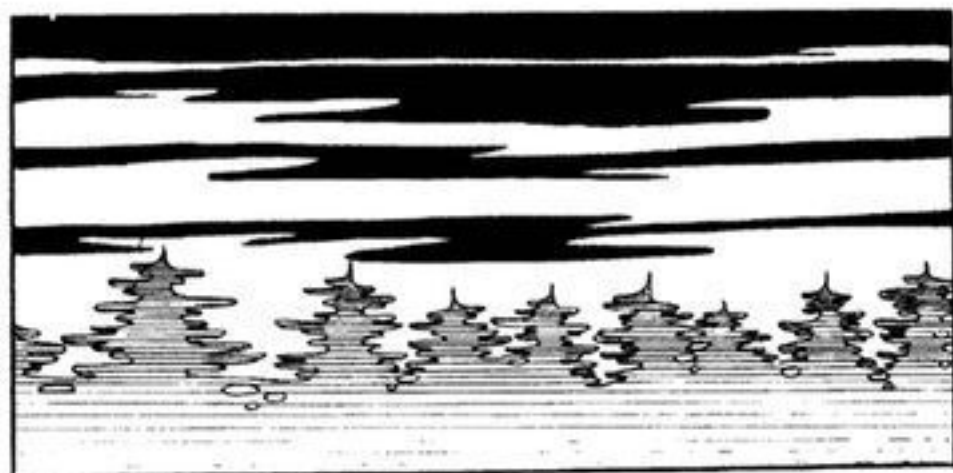












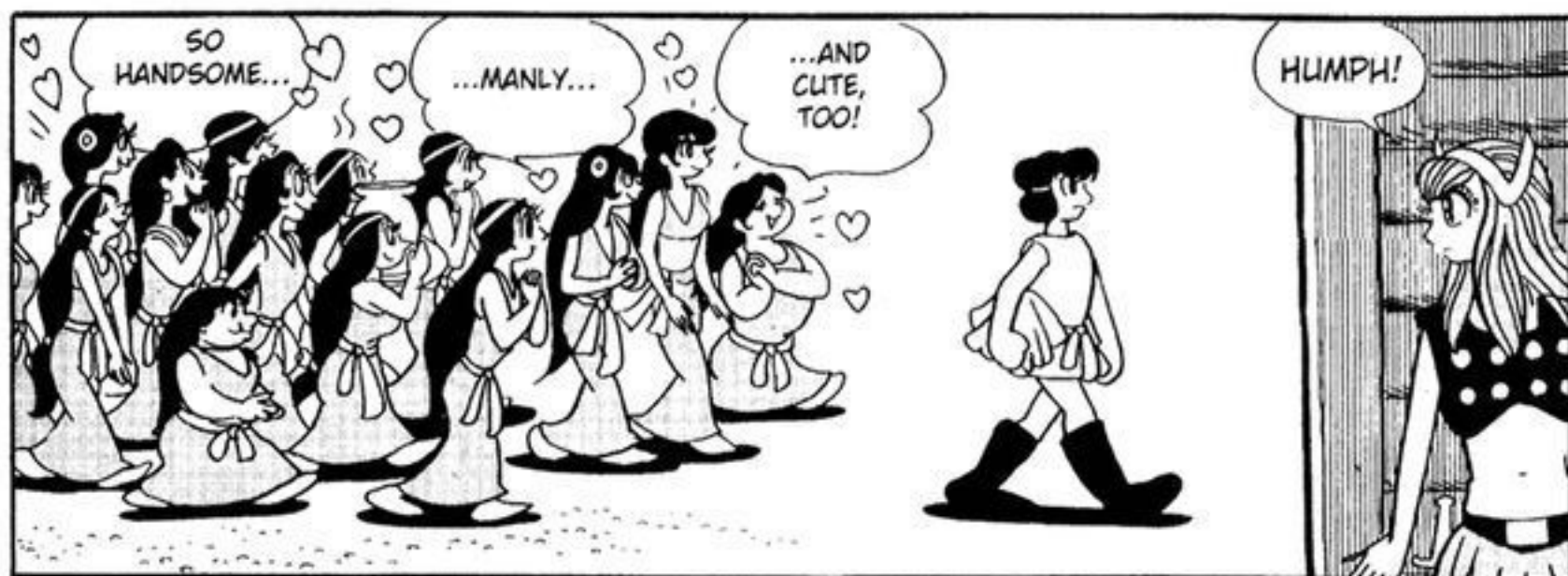




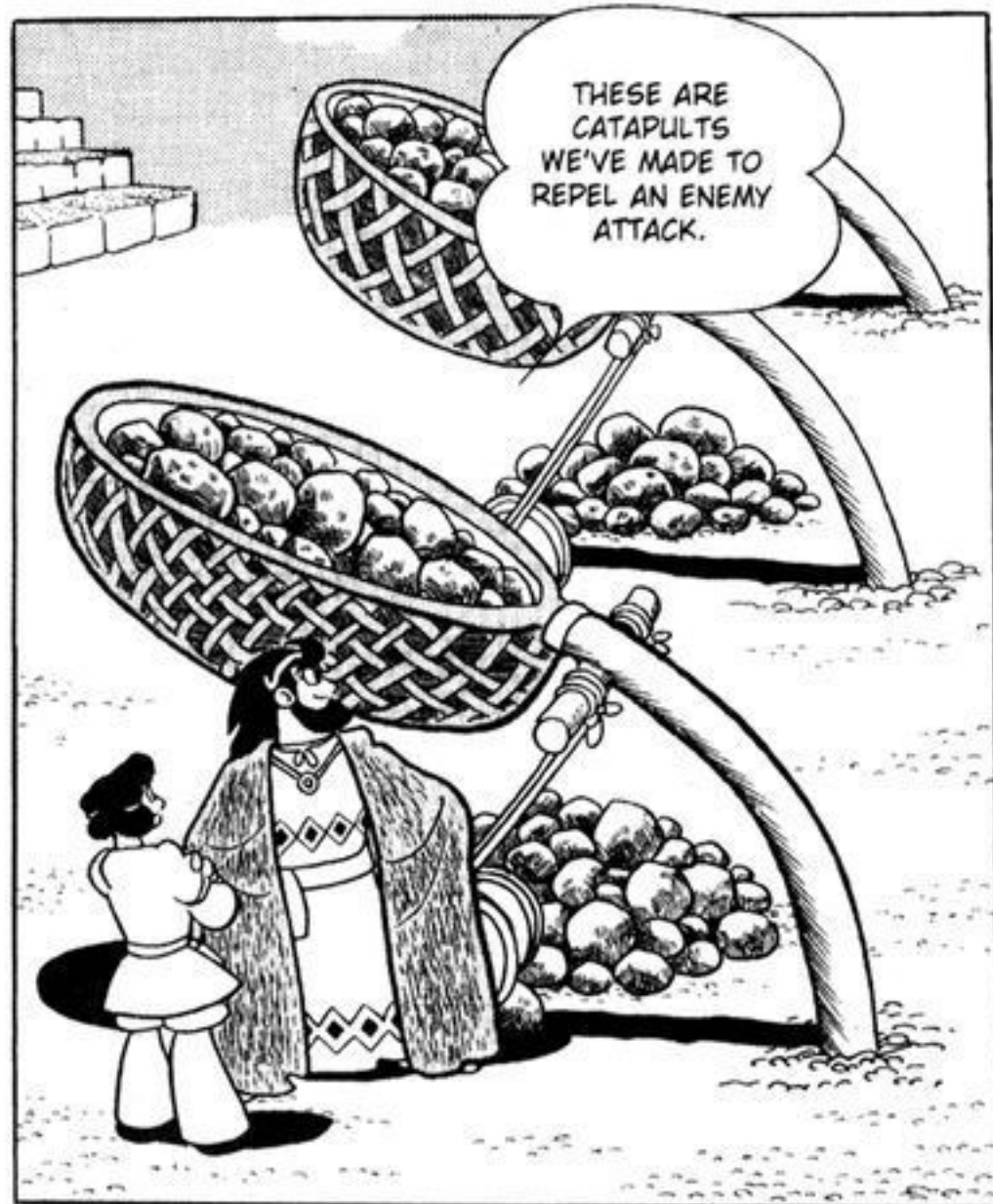
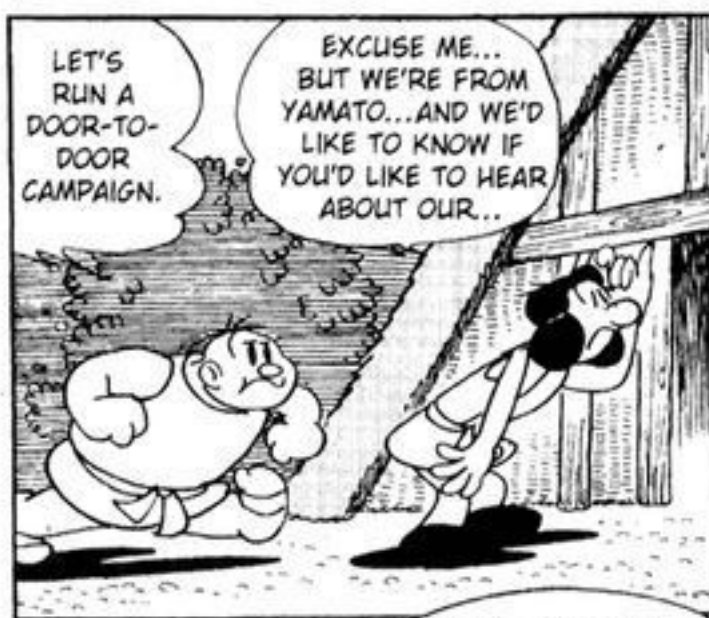




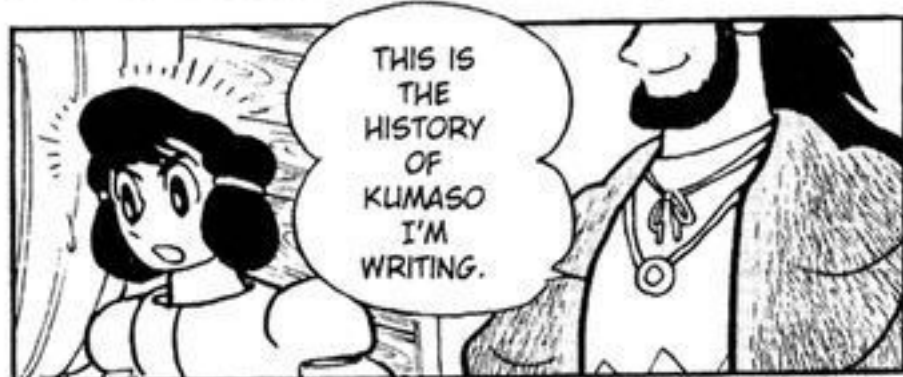
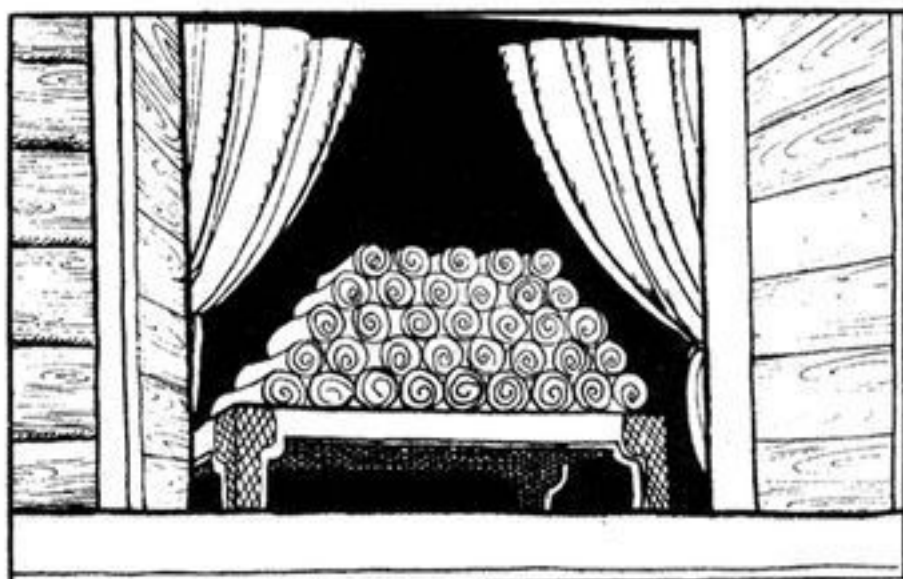
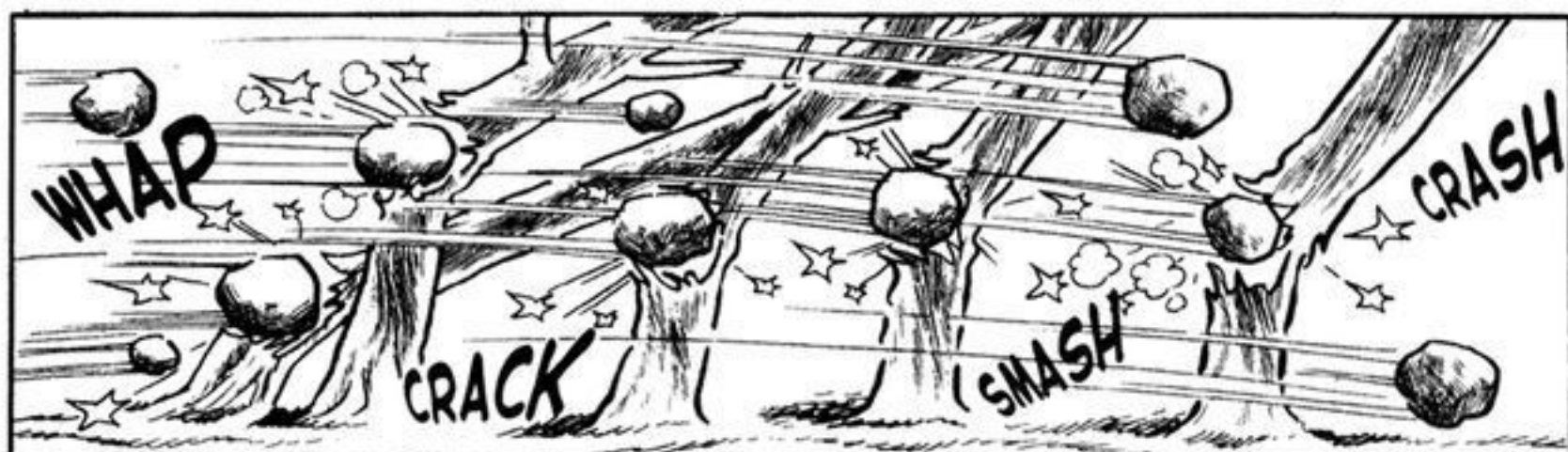




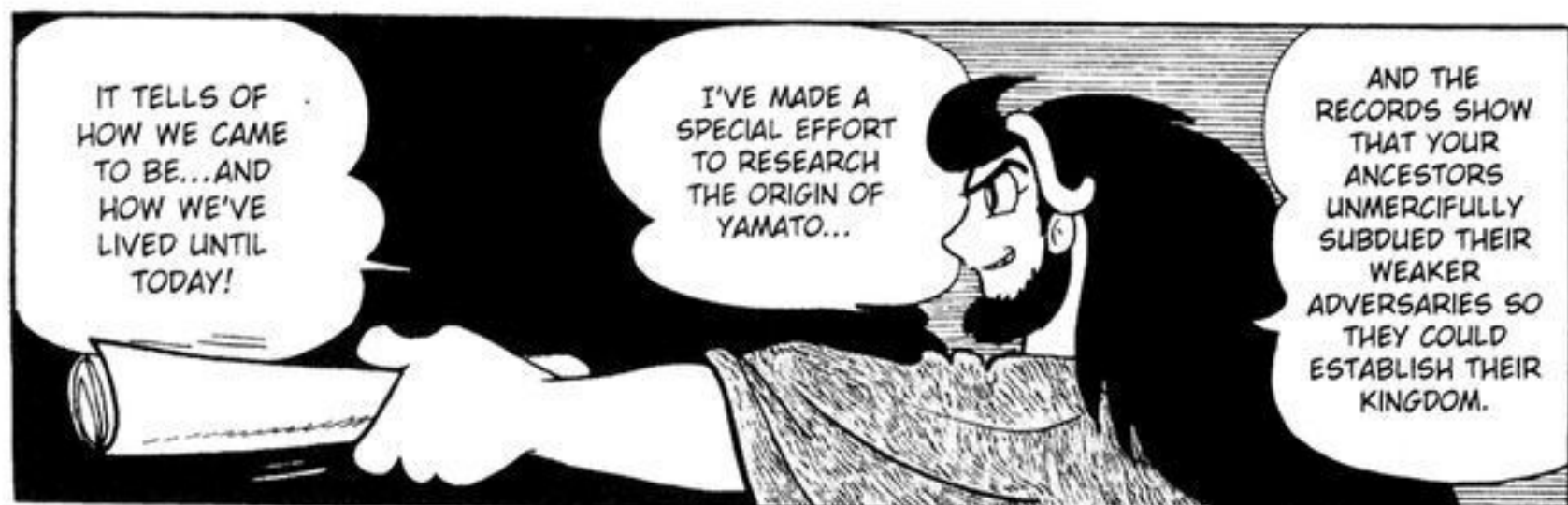




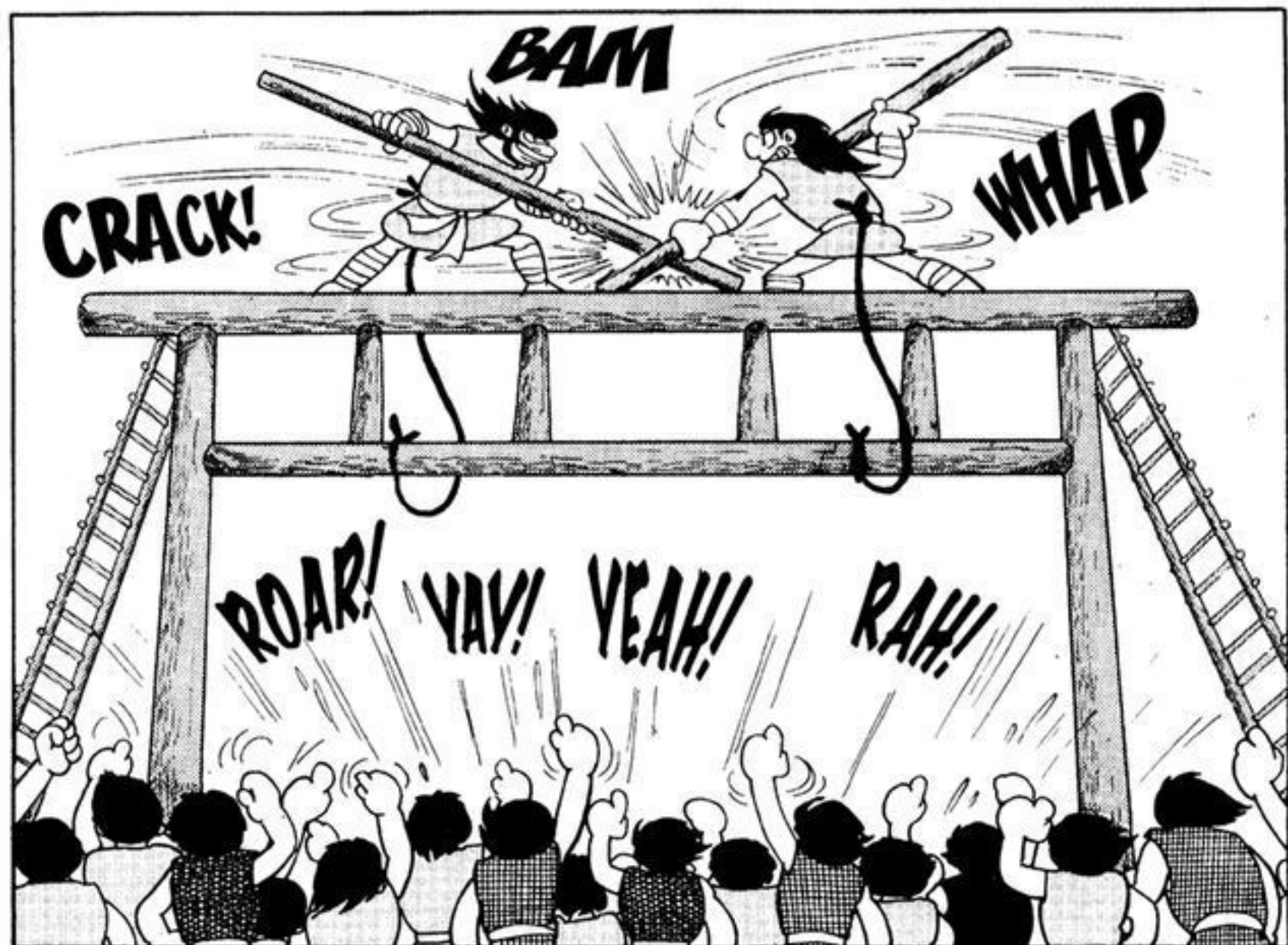




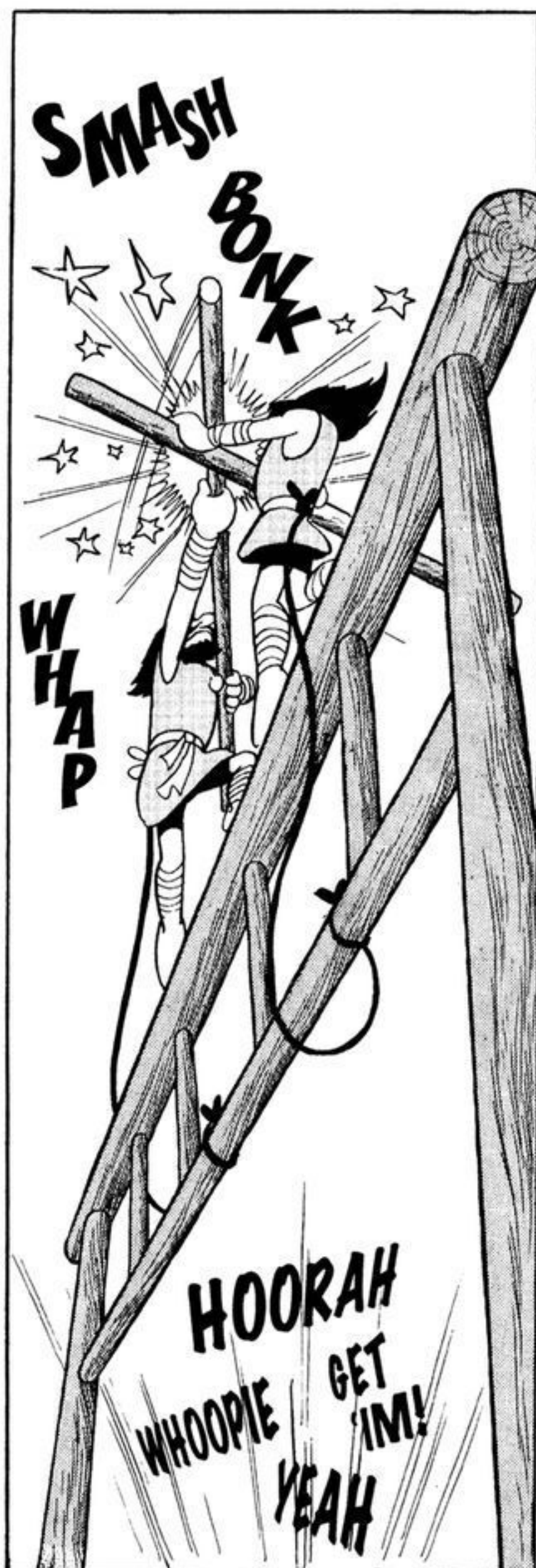








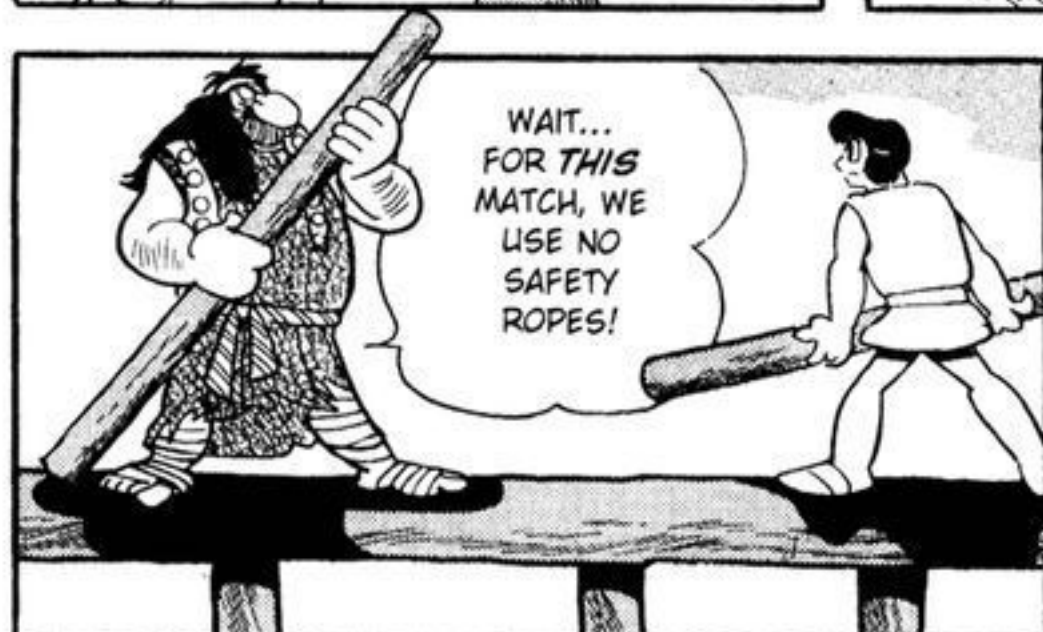




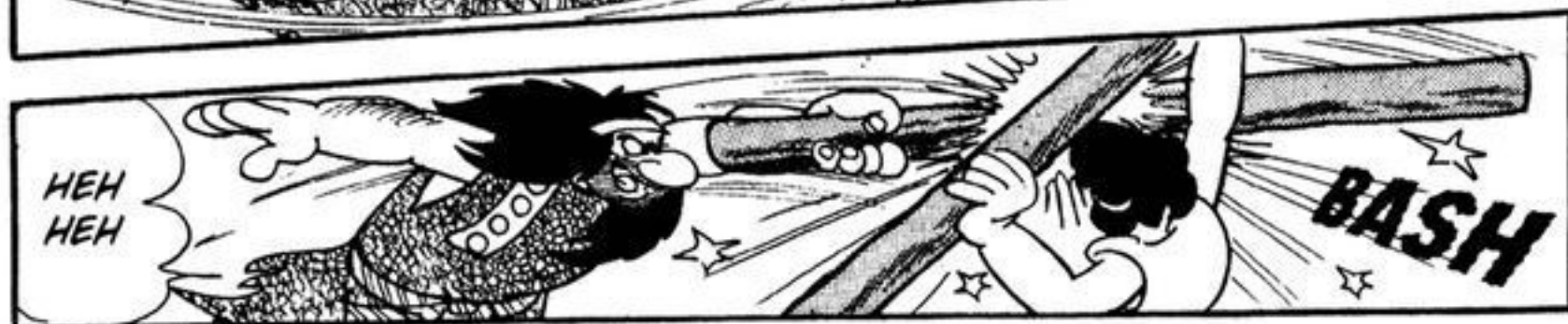








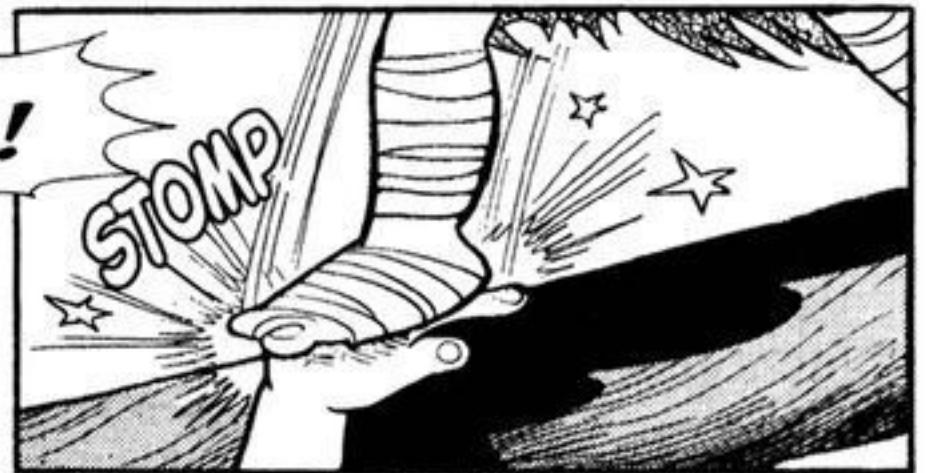
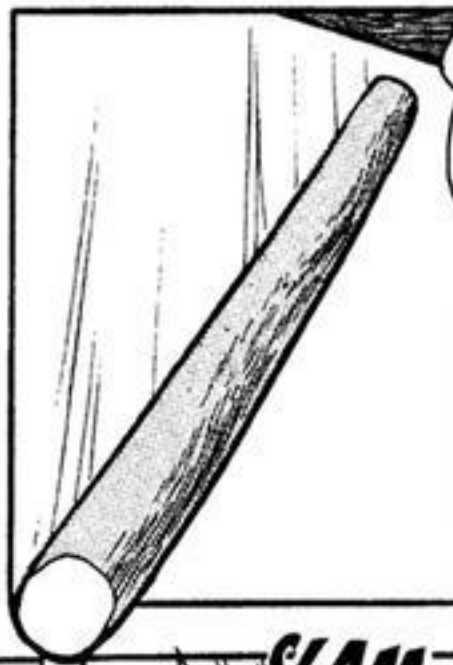




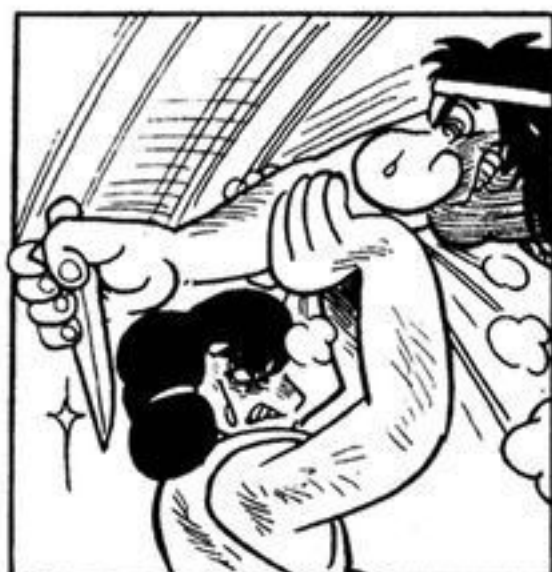




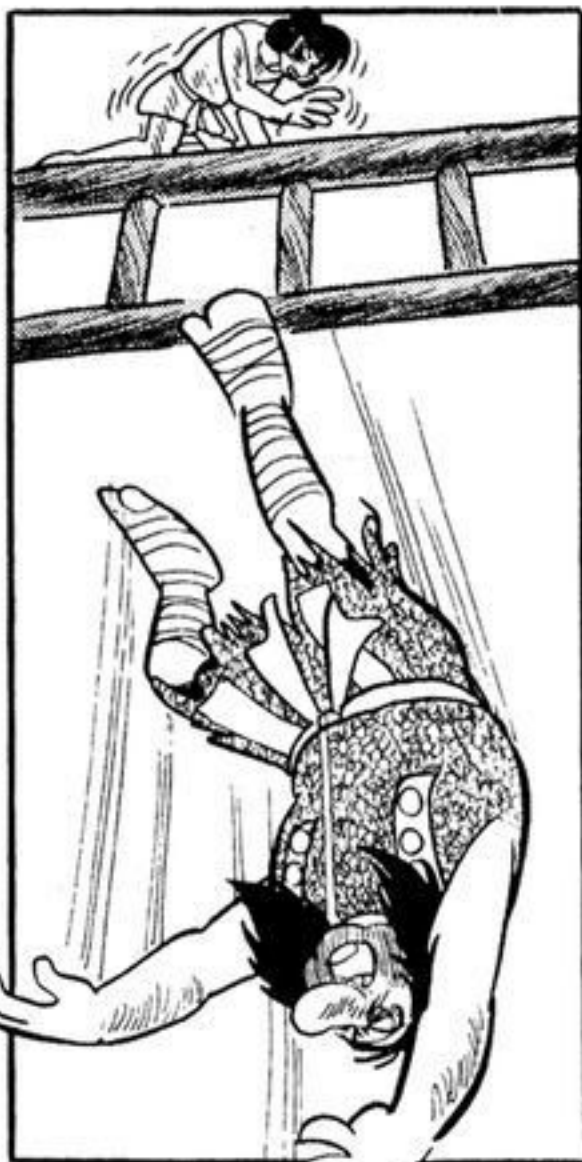








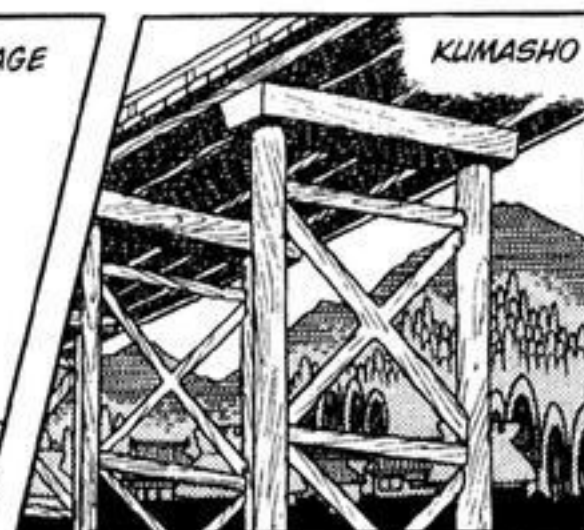
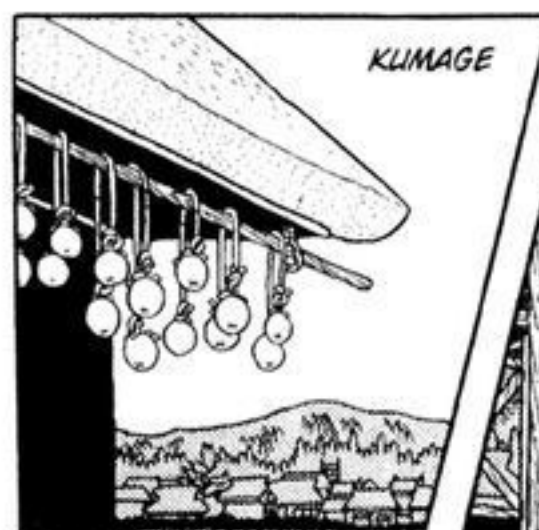












THE FIFTH CENTURY INHABITANTS OF THE SOUTHERN HALF OF KYUSHU CALLED THIS LAND KUMASO. IT IS RECORDED THAT IN 478 A.D., A MAN NAMED WAObU SUBDUED THE "HAIRY INHABITANTS OF 55 LANDS TO THE EAST" AND THE "BARBARIANS OF 66 LANDS TO THE WEST." THE LATTER SEEMS TO BE A REFERENCE TO KUMASO, A FEDERATION OF SMALL NATIONS SCATTERED IN THE AREA WHICH WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN UNITED BY A POWERFUL CHIEFTAIN, TAKERU KAWAKAMI, AS HE IS CALLED IN THIS STORY. THE KUMASO NATION WAS AT A CONSTANT WAR WITH YAMATO AND THEIR CONFLICT WAS A LONG AND VIOLENT AFFAIR.

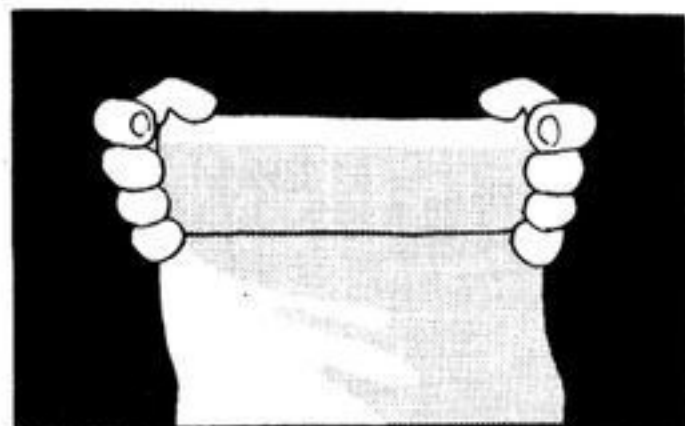
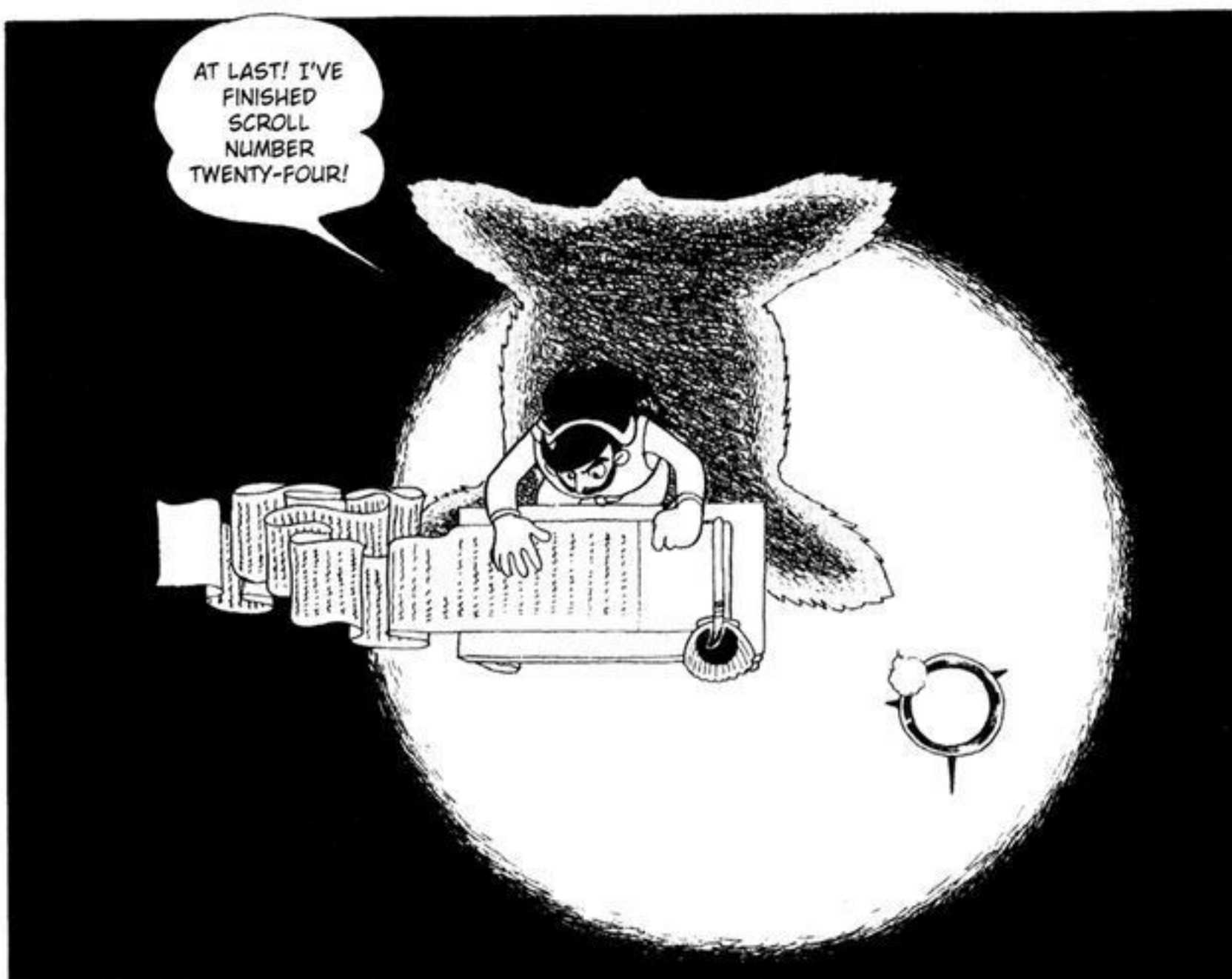




CHRONICLES OF THE YAMATO COURT SUCH AS THE KOJIKI AND NIHON SHOKI (TWO OF THE OLDEST REMAINING HISTORIES OF JAPAN) INVARIABLY DESCRIBE THEIR ADVERSARY, KUMASO, AS A BARBARIAN NATION. HOWEVER, IF SOME CITIZEN OF KUMASO HAD LEFT US A SIMILAR HISTORICAL WORK, OUR VIEW OF ANCIENT JAPANESE HISTORY MIGHT BE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT IS NOW. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE ONLY YAMATO'S HISTORICAL RECORDS.

WE CAN BE SURE THAT KUMASO VIEWED YAMATO'S ATTEMPTS AT SUBJUGATION AS CLEAR EXAMPLES OF AGGRESSION... UNLESS HISTORY IS VIEWED FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ALL OF ITS PARTICIPANTS, THE TRUTH WILL NEVER BE KNOWN....









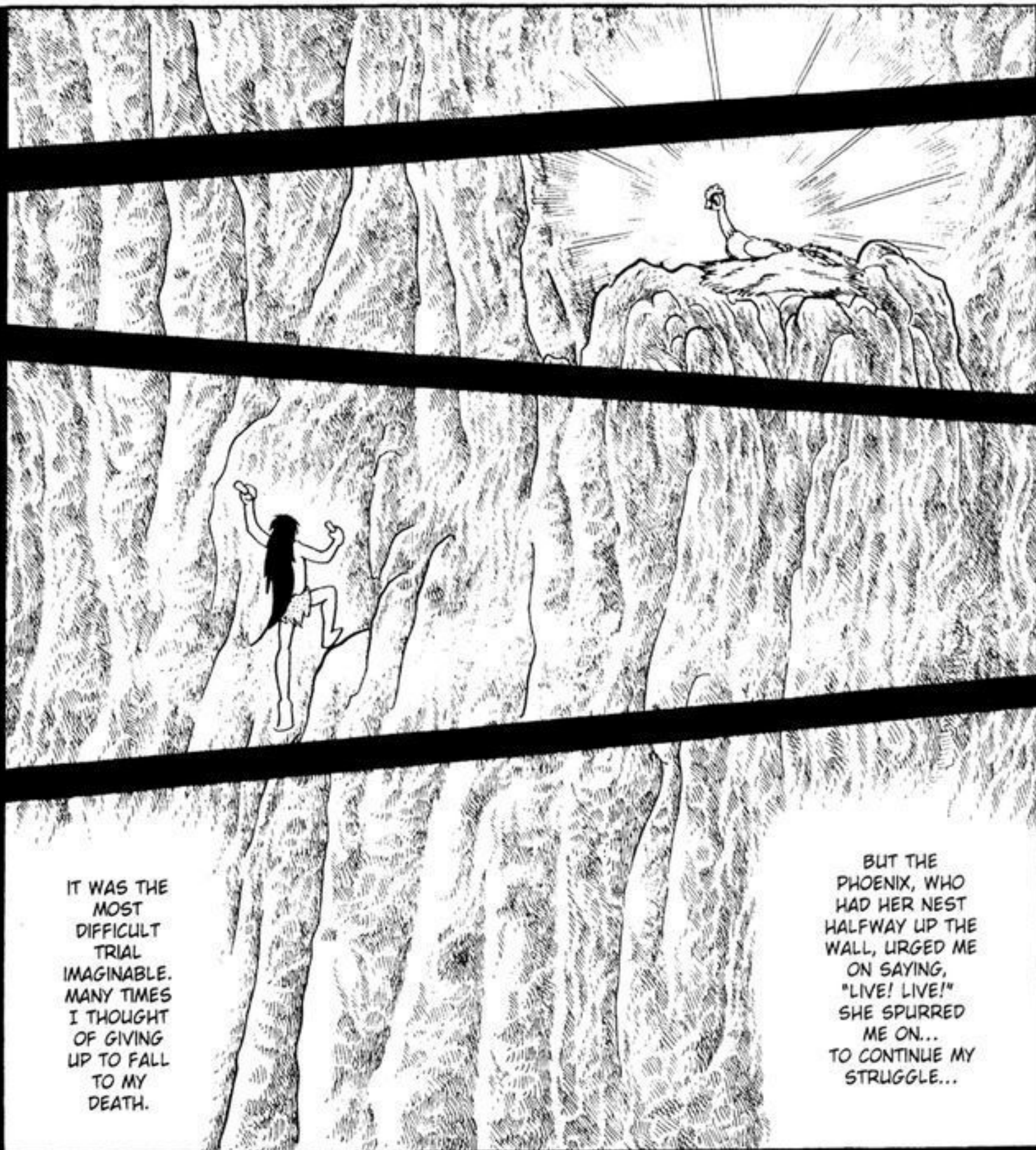
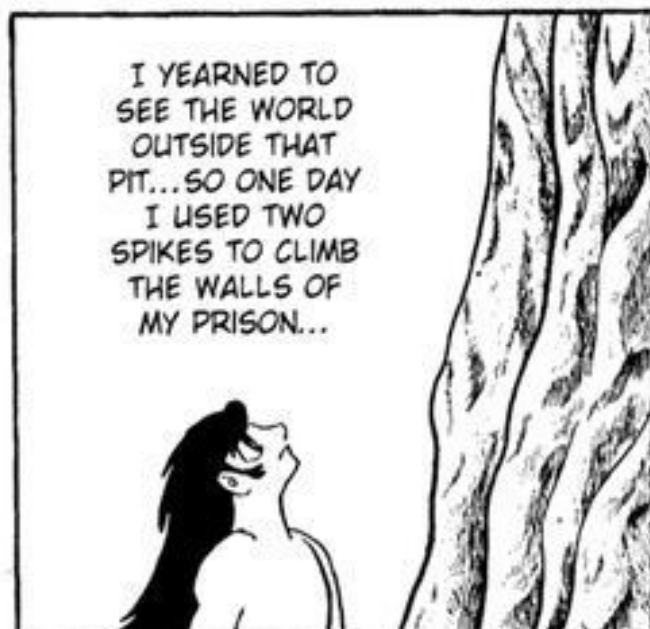










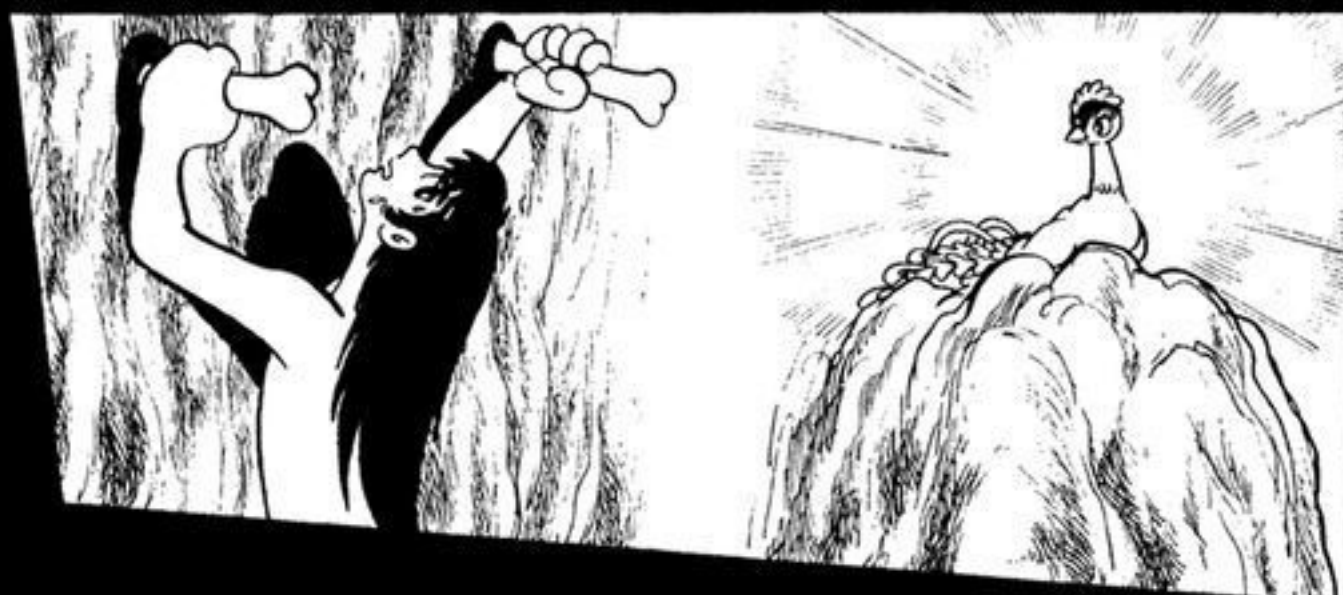


IT WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT TRIAL IMAGINABLE. MANY TIMES I THOUGHT OF GIVING UP TO FALL TO MY DEATH.

BUT THE PHOENIX, WHO HAD HER NEST HALFWAY UP THE WALL, URGED ME ON SAYING, "LIVE! LIVE!" SHE SPURRED ME ON... TO CONTINUE MY STRUGGLE...



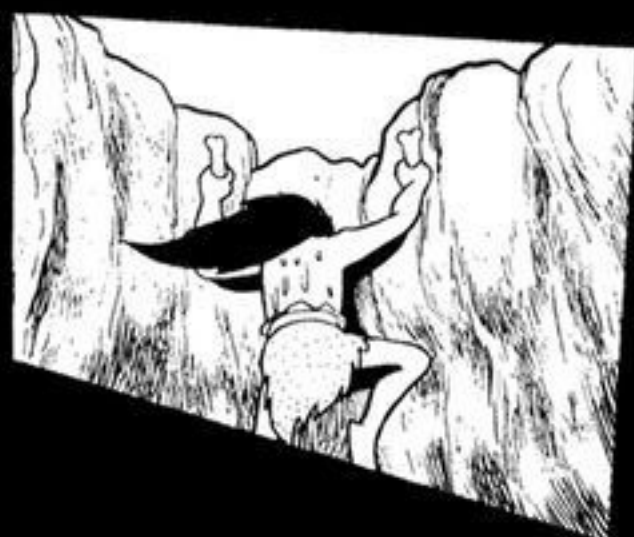
"SHE  
SPOKE TO  
YOU?  
COME ON,  
OLD MAN,  
DON'T PULL  
MY LEG."



SHE DIDN'T SPEAK  
WITH WORDS...SHE  
SPOKE IN MY  
MIND...HER VOICE  
SEEMED TO BE FILLED  
WITH LOVE...IT FELT  
LIKE A VOICE FROM  
THE HEAVENS.



FINALLY...

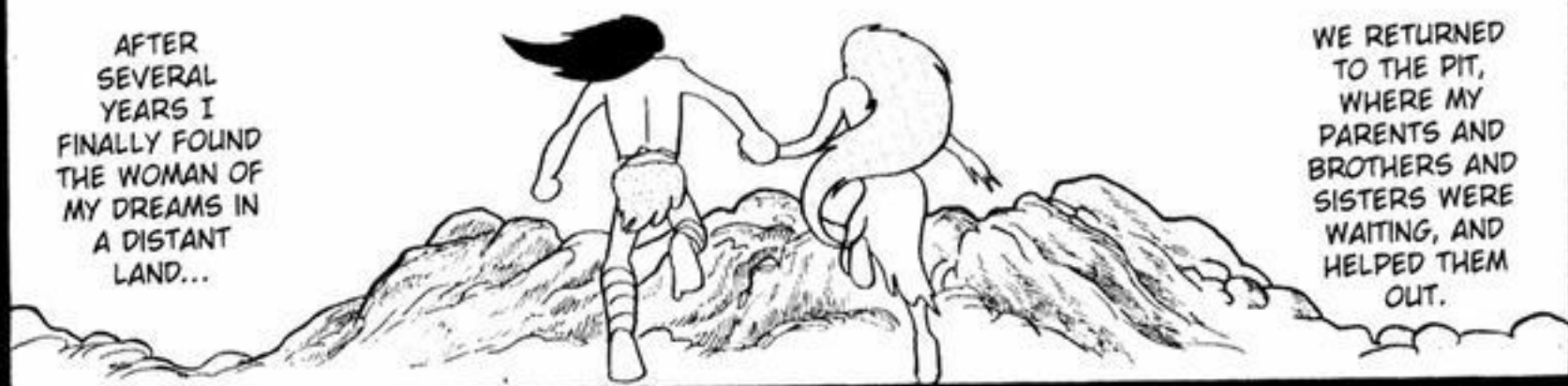


I REACHED THE TOP  
AND CLIMBED OVER  
THE EDGE.  
BUT IF THE PHOENIX  
HADN'T ENCOURAGED  
ME I WOULD HAVE  
FALLEN TO MY DEATH.  
I THEN WENT OFF TO  
FIND A WOMAN WITH  
WHOM I COULD START  
MY OWN FAMILY.

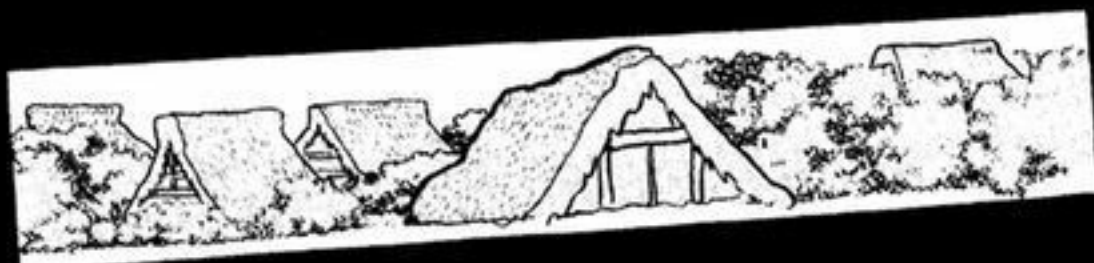




AFTER  
SEVERAL  
YEARS I  
FINALLY FOUND  
THE WOMAN OF  
MY DREAMS IN  
A DISTANT  
LAND...



WE RETURNED  
TO THE PIT,  
WHERE MY  
PARENTS AND  
BROTHERS AND  
SISTERS WERE  
WAITING, AND  
HELPED THEM  
OUT.



WE ALL  
BUILT A  
SMALL  
VILLAGE AT  
THE FOOT  
OF THE  
VOLCANO.



SO YOU SEE, SON, THE  
PHOENIX IS NOT ONLY  
MY GUARDIAN DEITY, BUT  
THAT OF THE WHOLE  
VILLAGE.

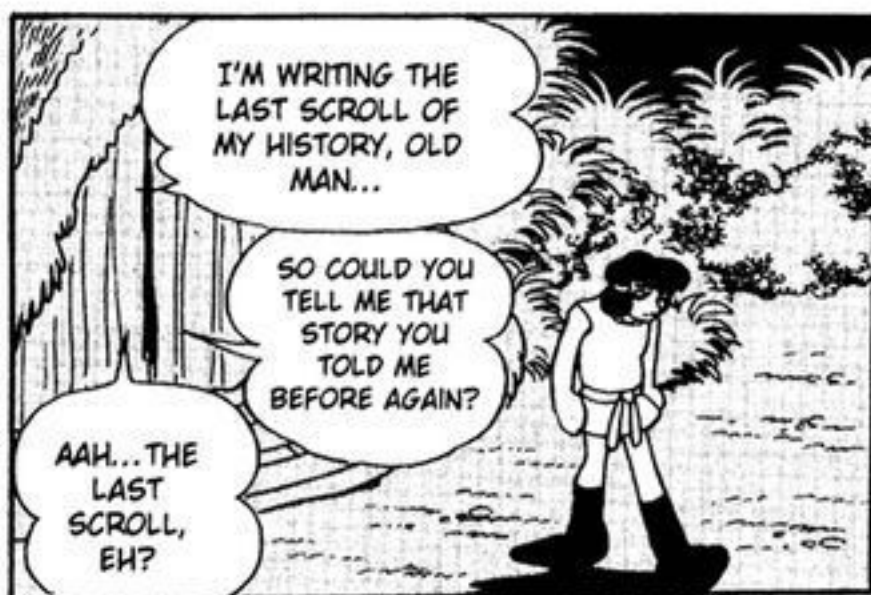
MANY  
CHILDREN  
WERE  
BORN...AND  
THEY TOO HAD  
CHILDREN.  
SCATTERED  
MEMBERS OF  
OUR TRIBE  
ALSO  
GRADUALLY  
RETURNED.



BUT...BUT YOU  
COULD HAVE  
GRABBED THE  
PHOENIX, DRANK  
HER BLOOD, AND  
REMAINED YOUNG  
FOREVER!

LISTEN, BOY, JUST STAYING ALIVE  
WON'T BRING YOU HAPPINESS...THE  
MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO FIND  
OUT WHAT YOUR PURPOSE IS WHILE  
YOU'RE HERE  
ON EARTH.





## Dear Babby:

I am a troubled 16-year-old teenager whose father sent him to Kyushu as an assassin. But I think there must be some other purpose to my life. What should I do?

—Oguna

Dear Oguna:

First you must work off the frustration you obviously feel and which is so common at your age. If you have the money, why not travel abroad. Try women...dancing...or if that fails, drugs...join a radical student group and hang the school president... (if that doesn't work join the marines) you could also try mass murder or hijacking...if none of the above work you are obviously a victim of manic depression or schizophrenia, and I suggest you consult a doctor and perhaps become a comic book artist.

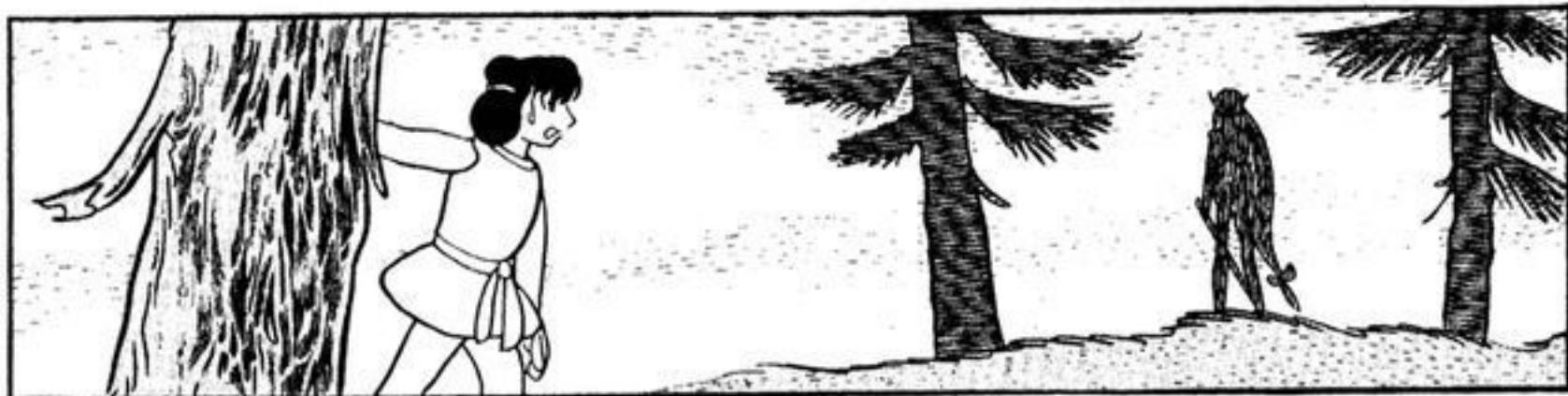
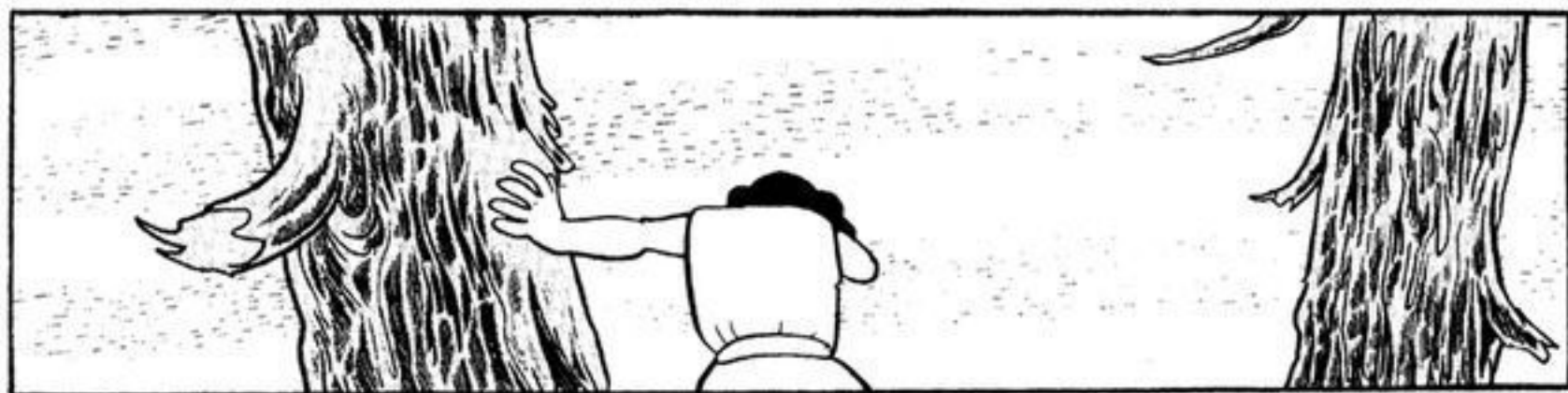




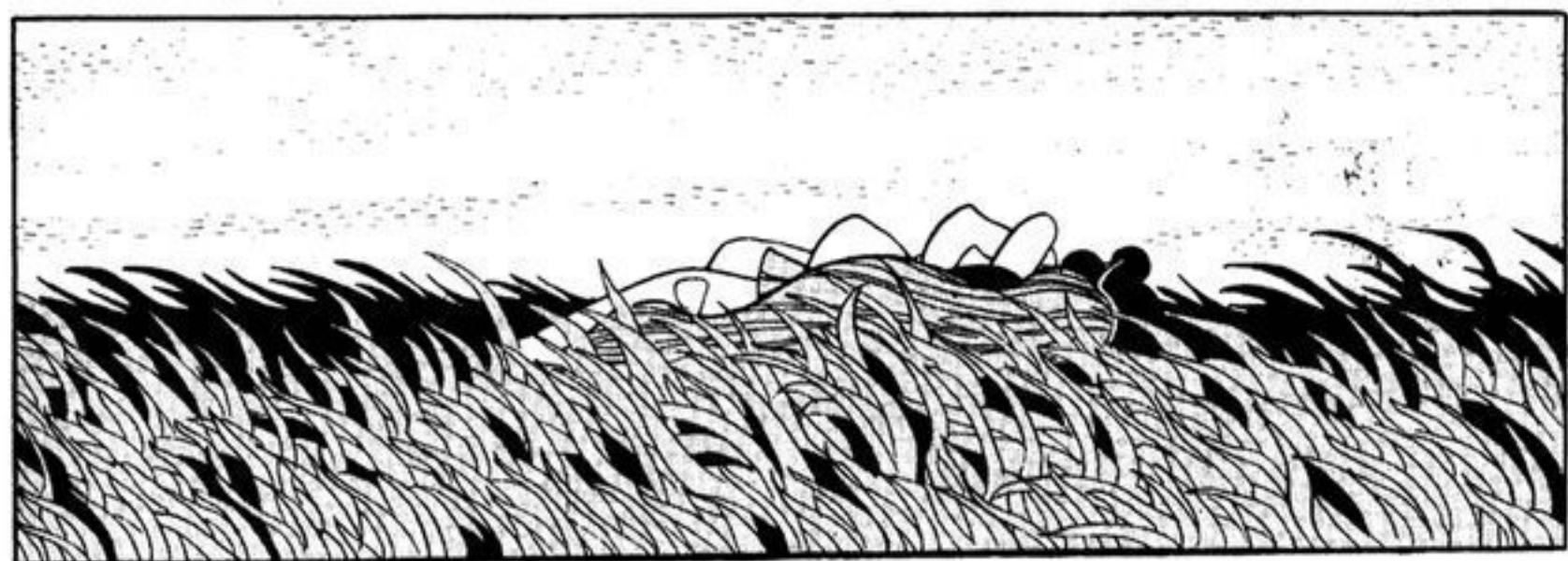
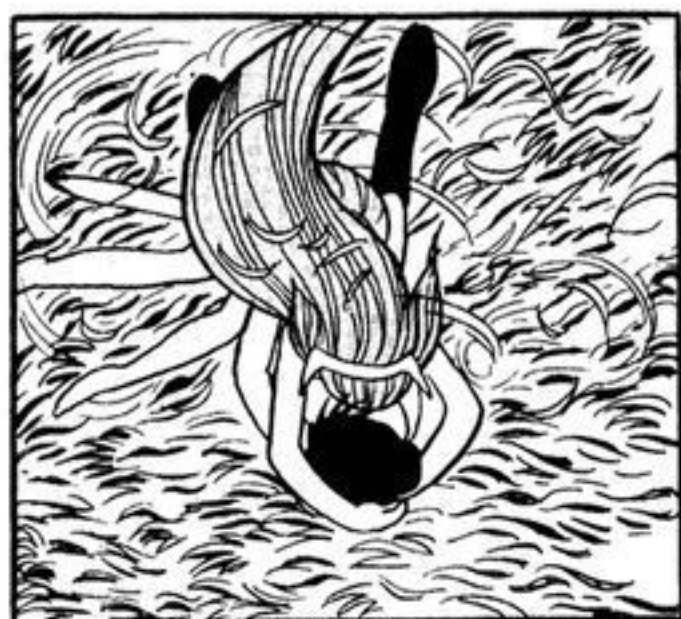
GOD...  
SOMEONE...  
PLEASE TELL ME WHAT  
TO DO WITH MY LIFE...  
I'M AT A COMPLETE  
LOSS!















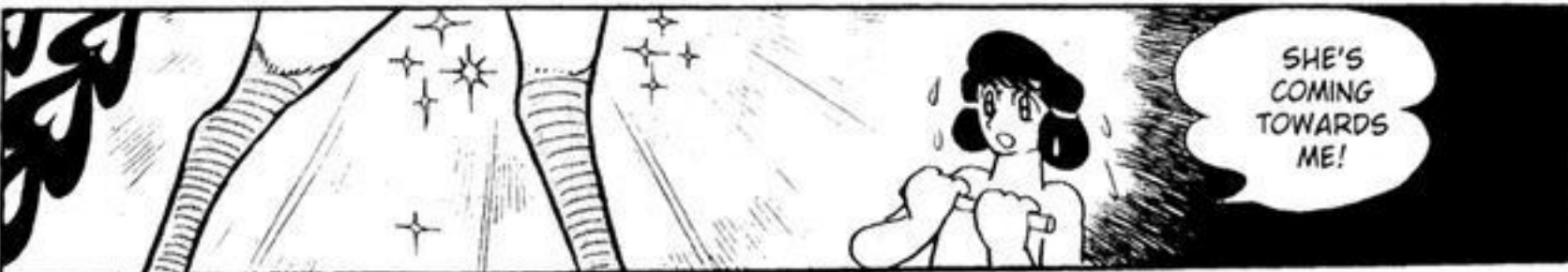
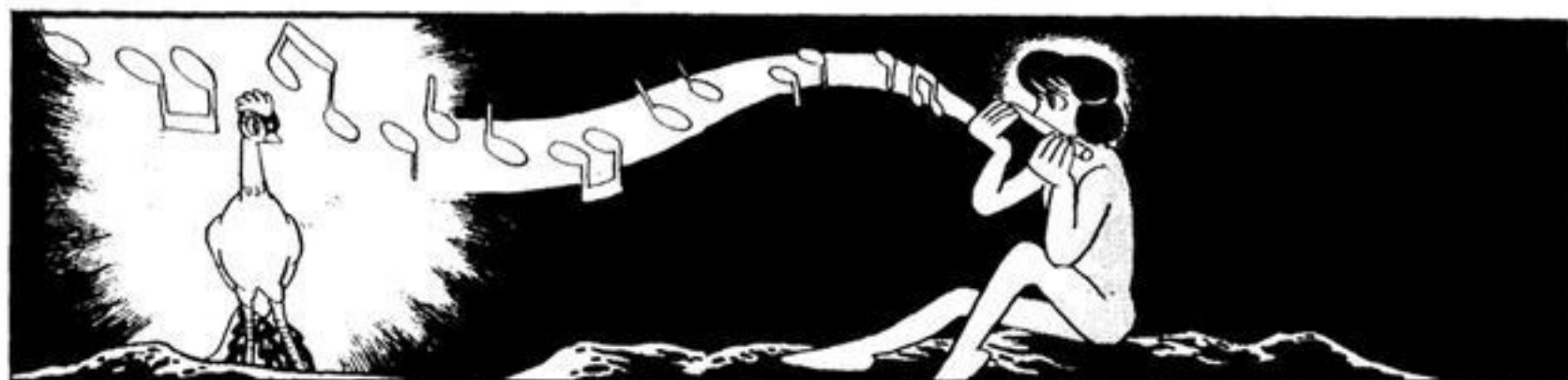




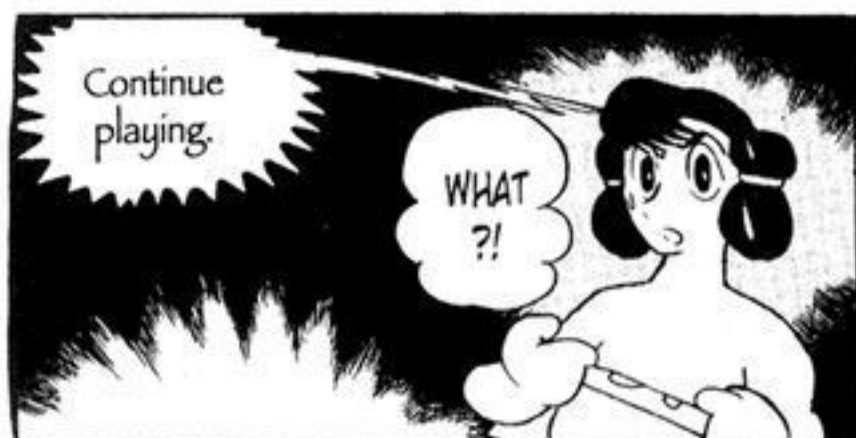








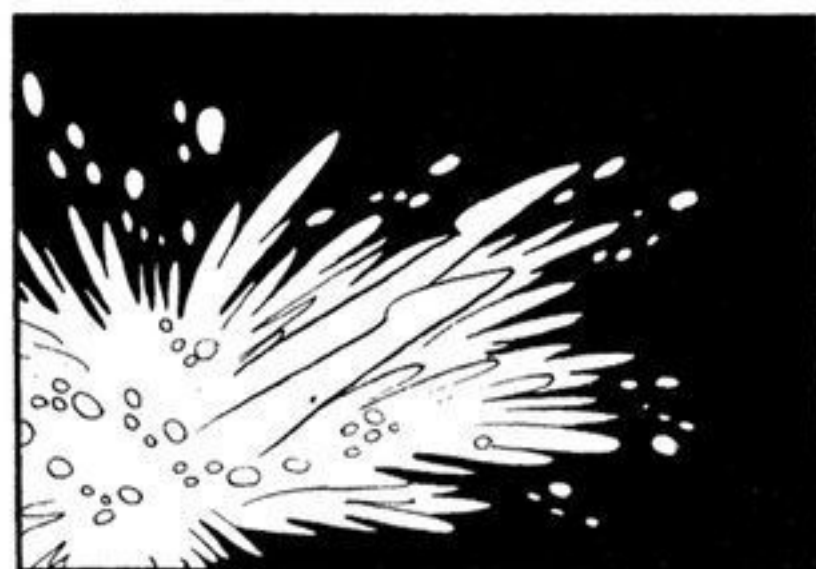
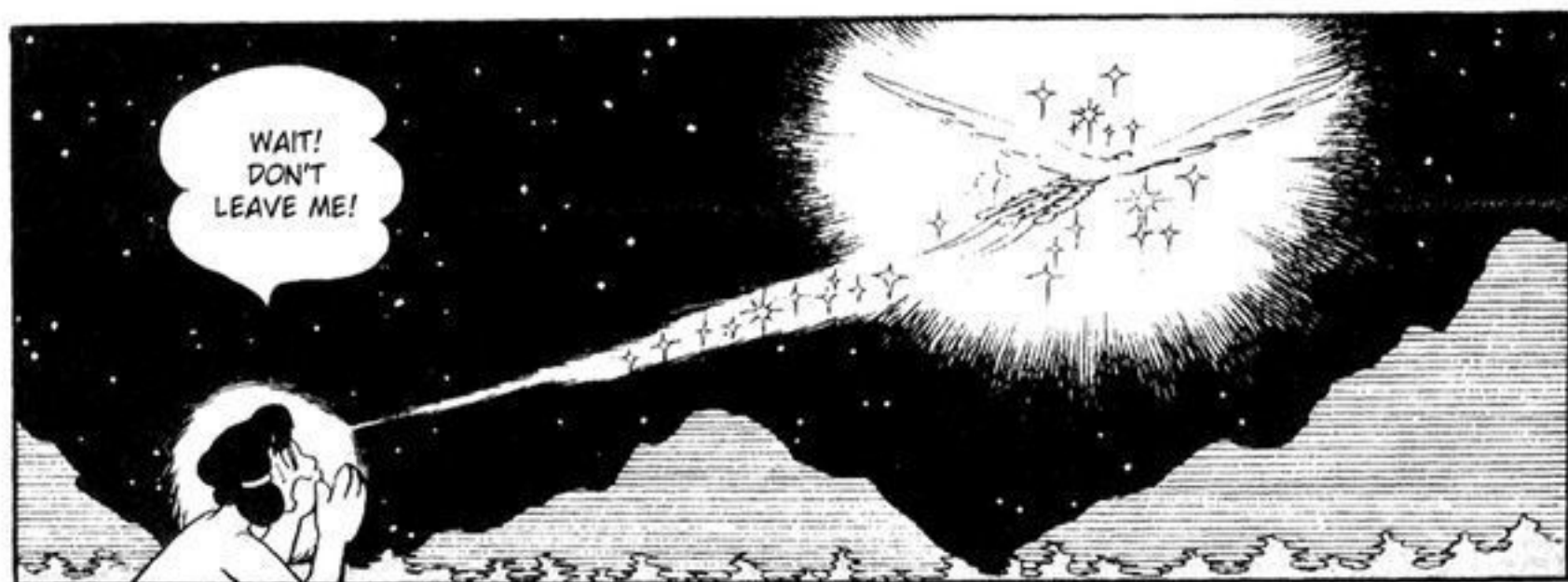




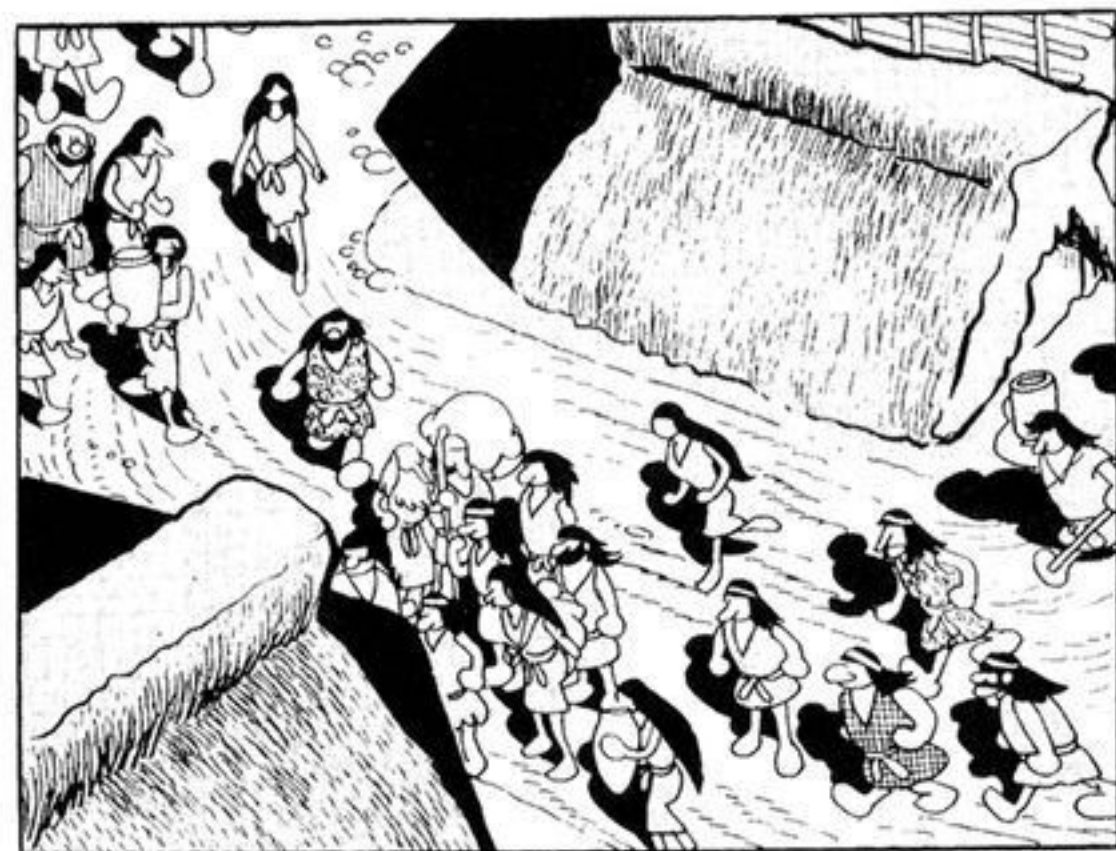
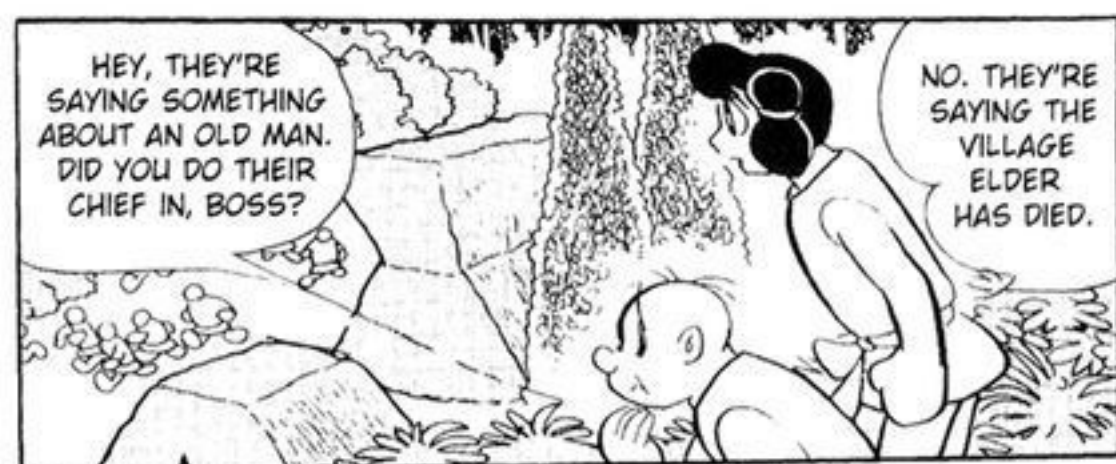




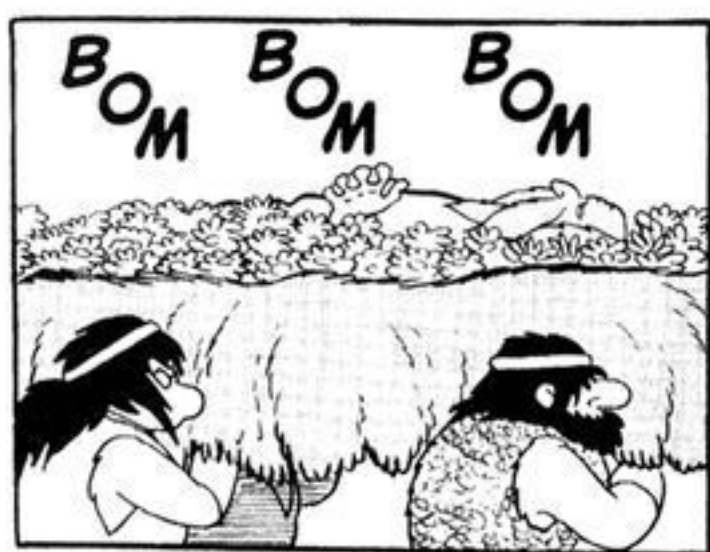
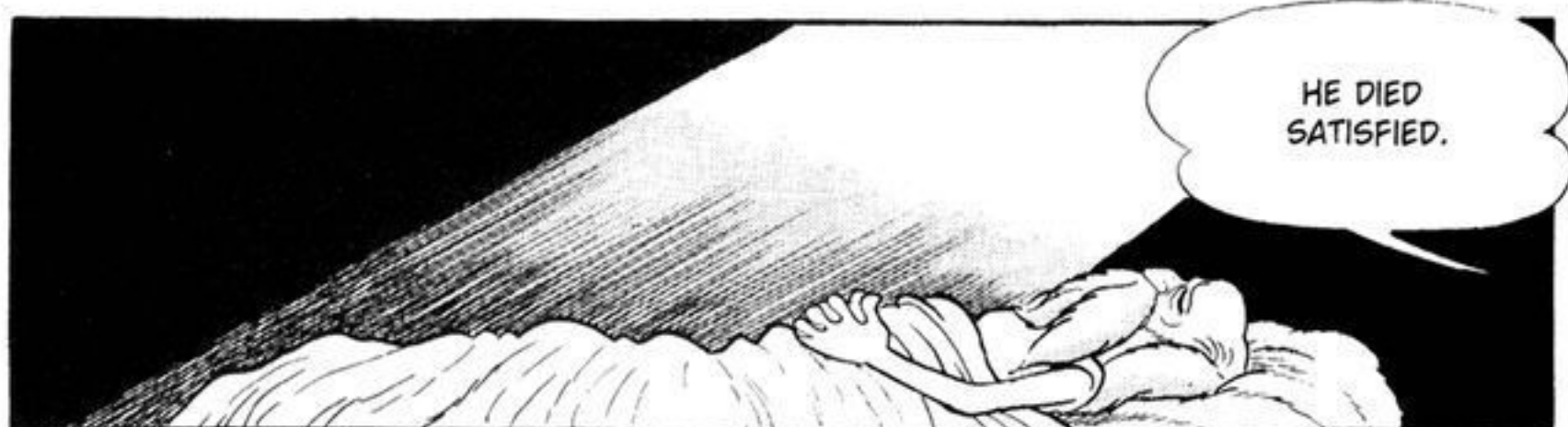
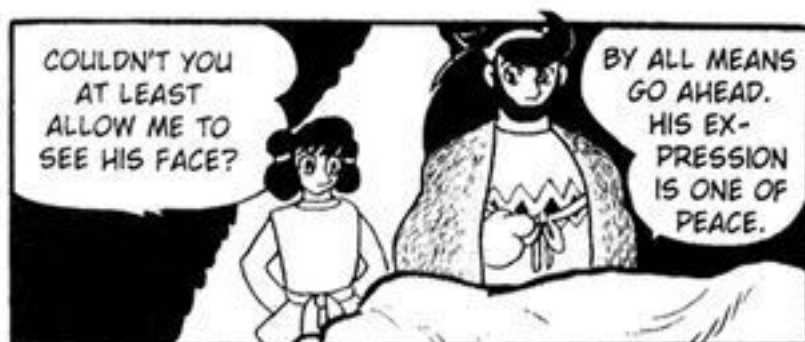




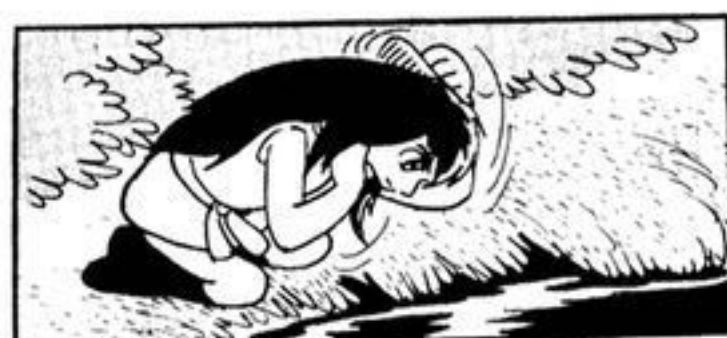
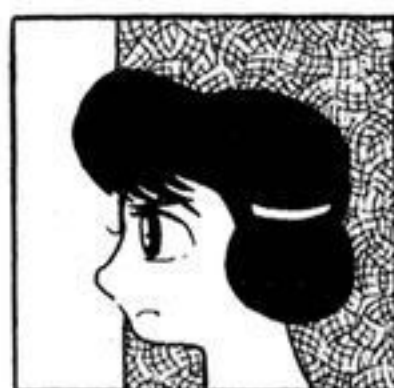
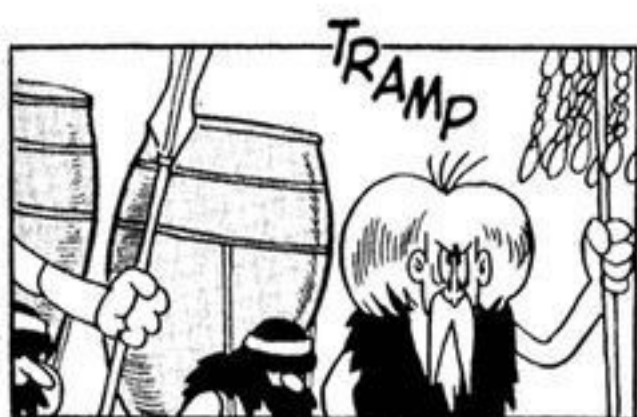




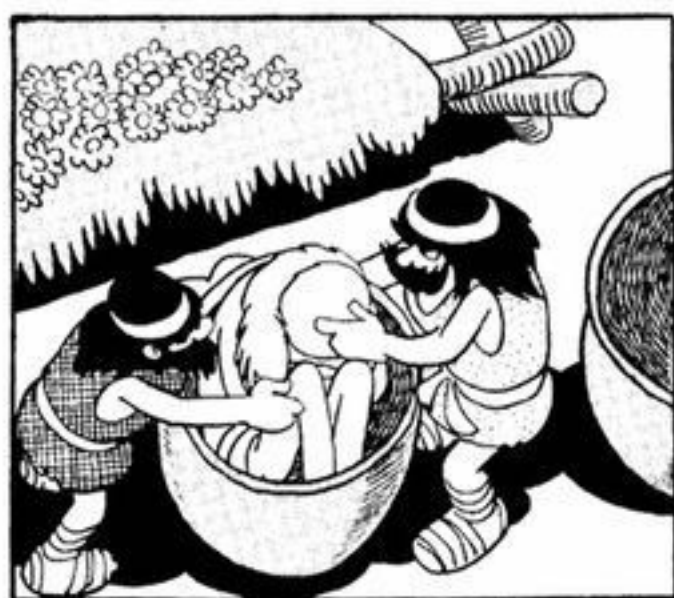












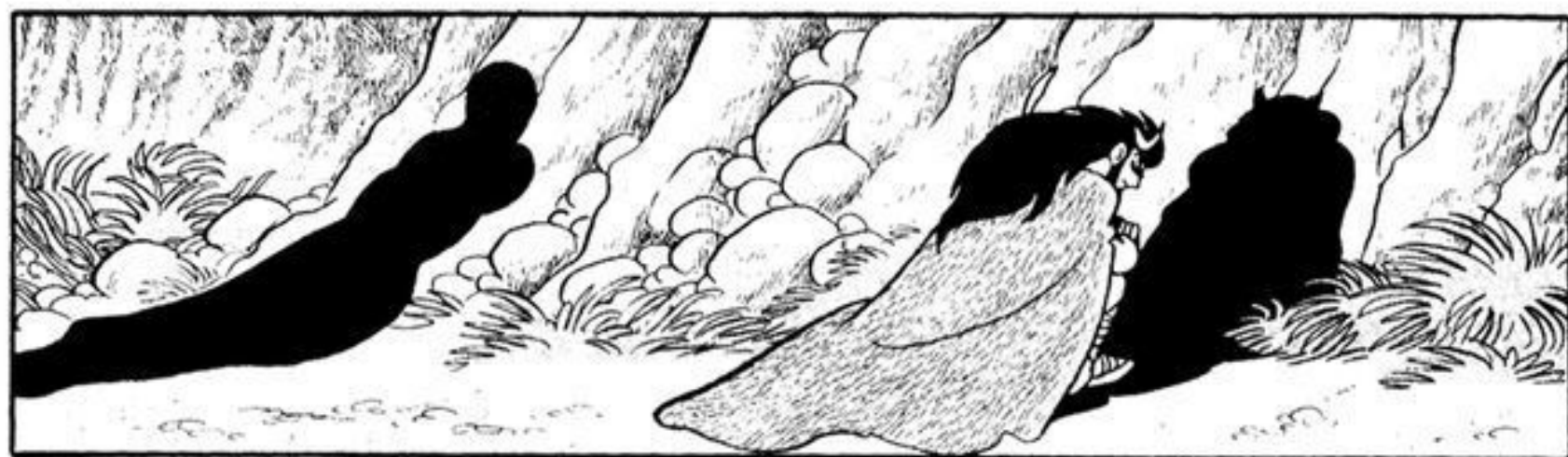
OLD ONE...  
YOUR  
SPIRIT  
VANISHED  
LIKE THE  
SETTING  
SUN...

MAY YOU  
FIND  
ETERNAL  
PEACE IN  
YOUR  
FINAL  
RESTING  
PLACE.

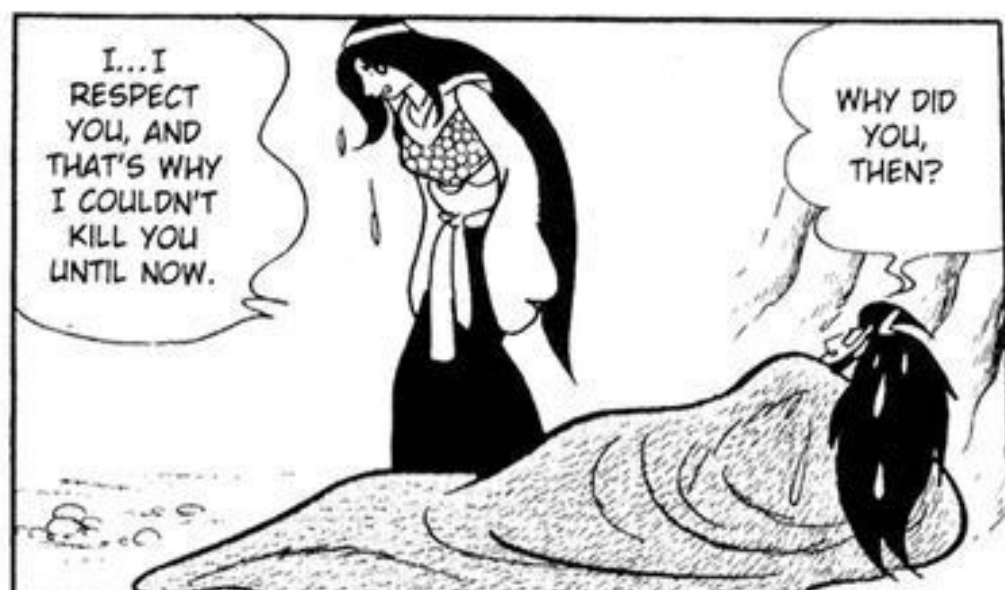
YOUR  
MAJESTY,  
SHOULDN'T  
WE BE  
GOING  
BACK?  
IT'S  
ALMOST  
DARK.

NO. YOU  
GO AHEAD.  
I WANT TO  
REMAIN  
HERE A  
WHILE  
ALONE.

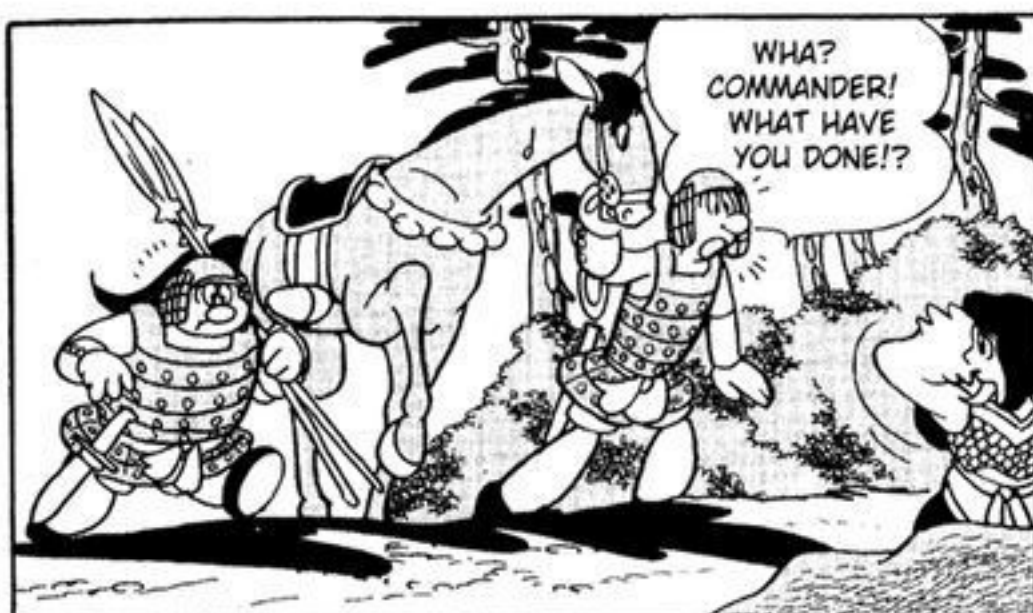




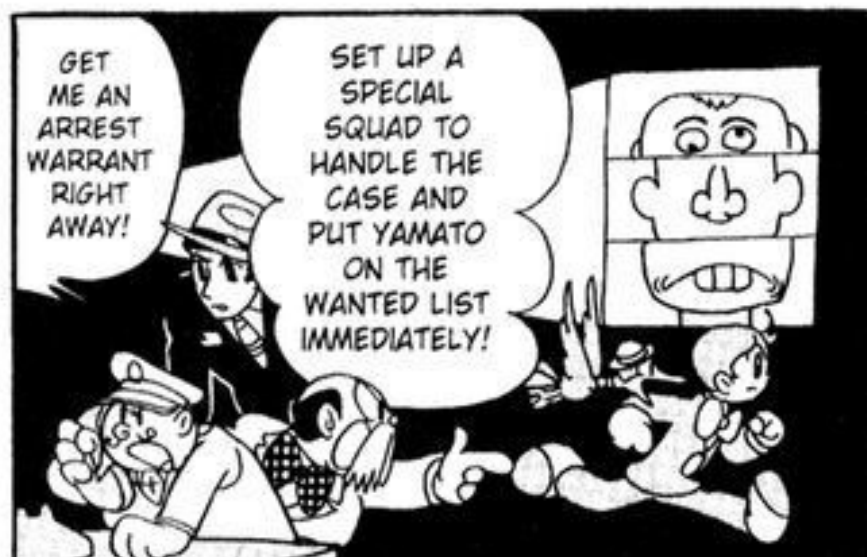




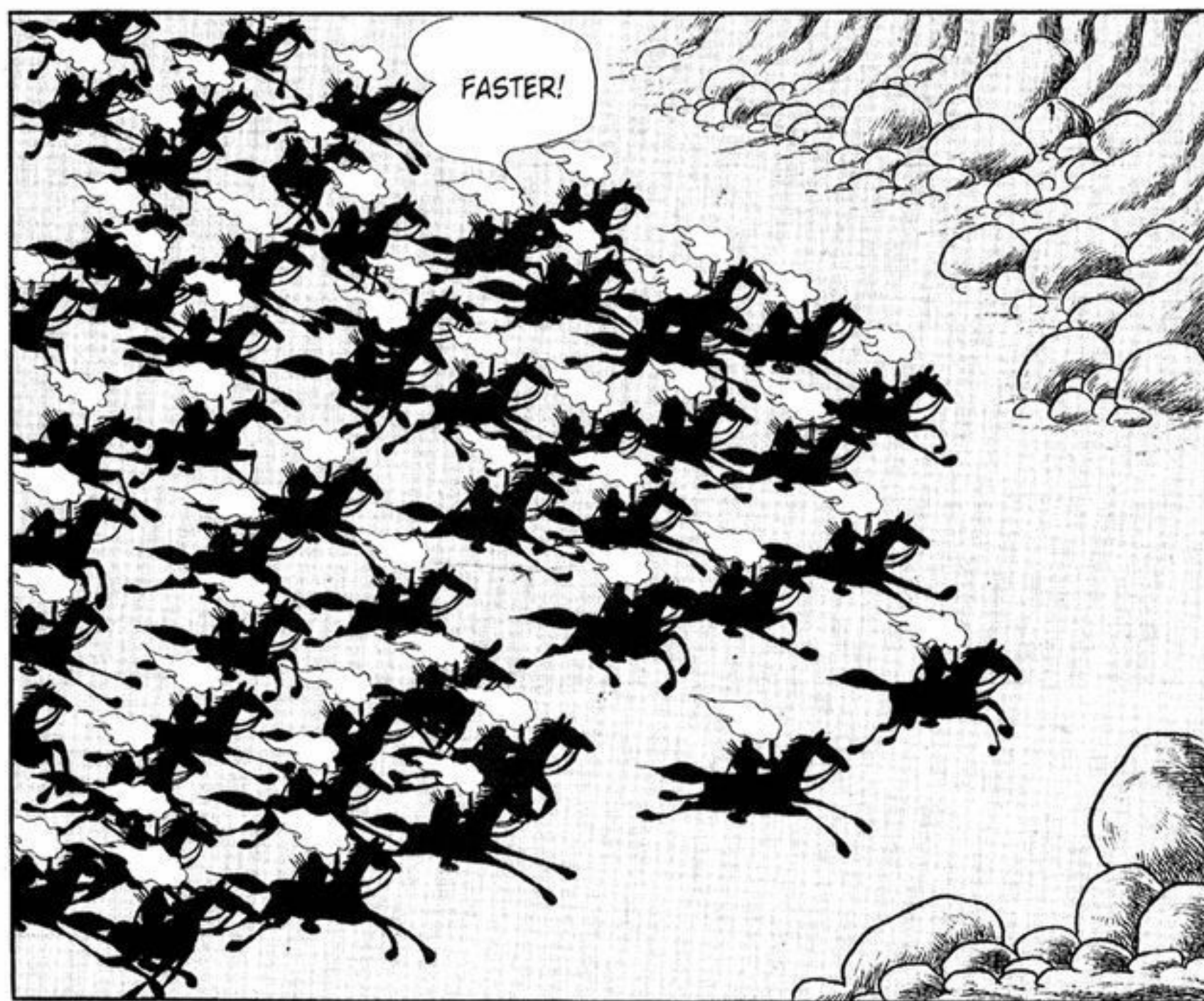
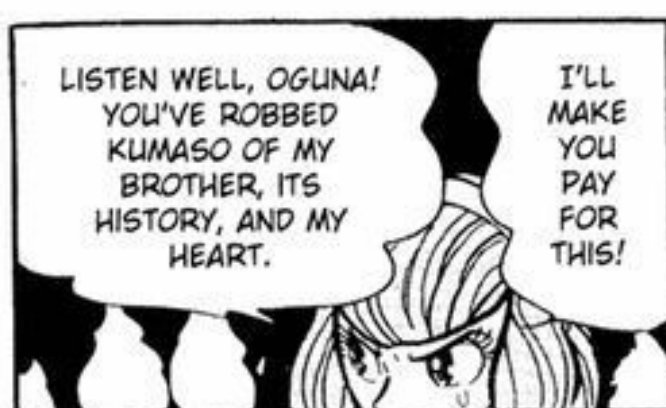








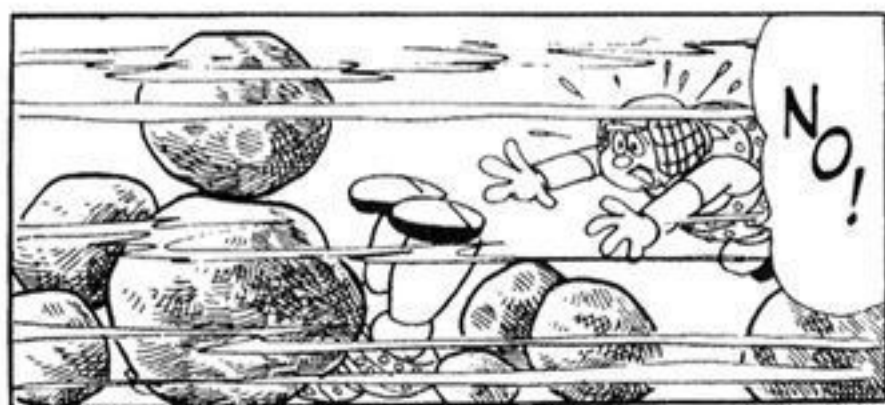
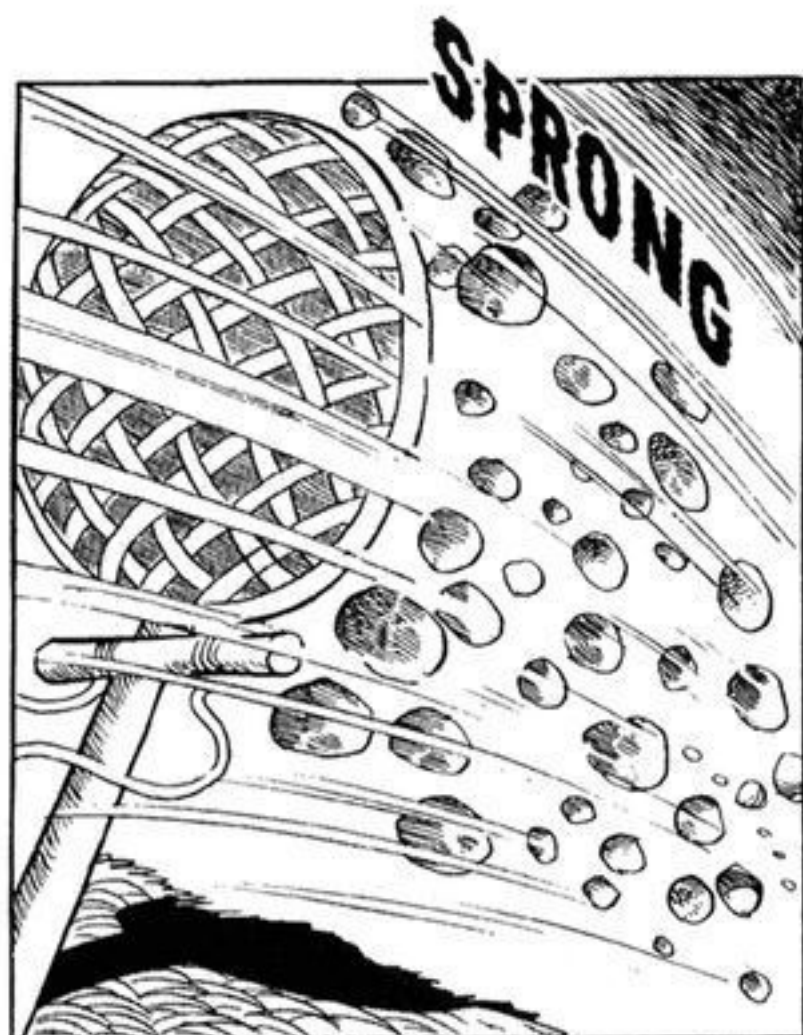




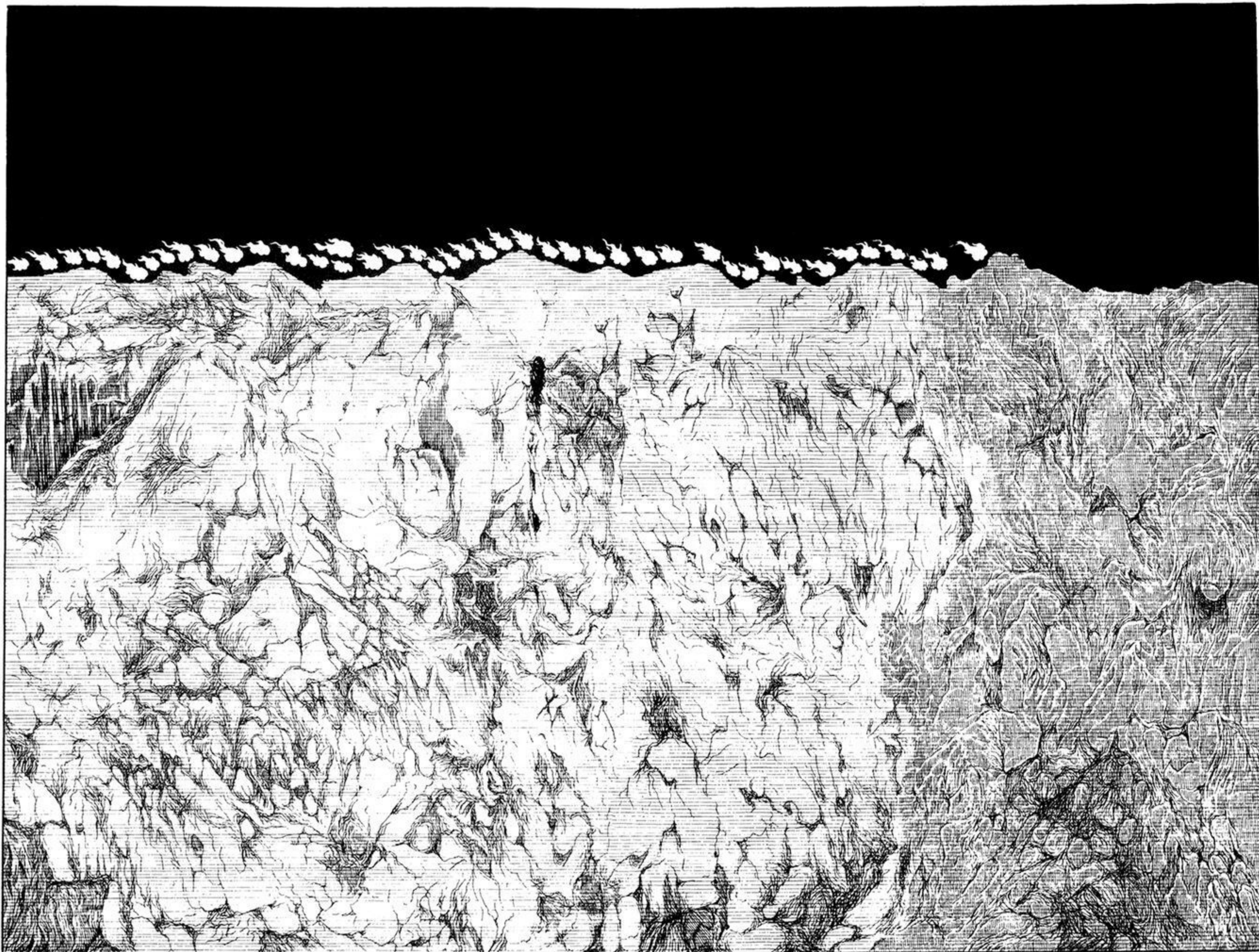




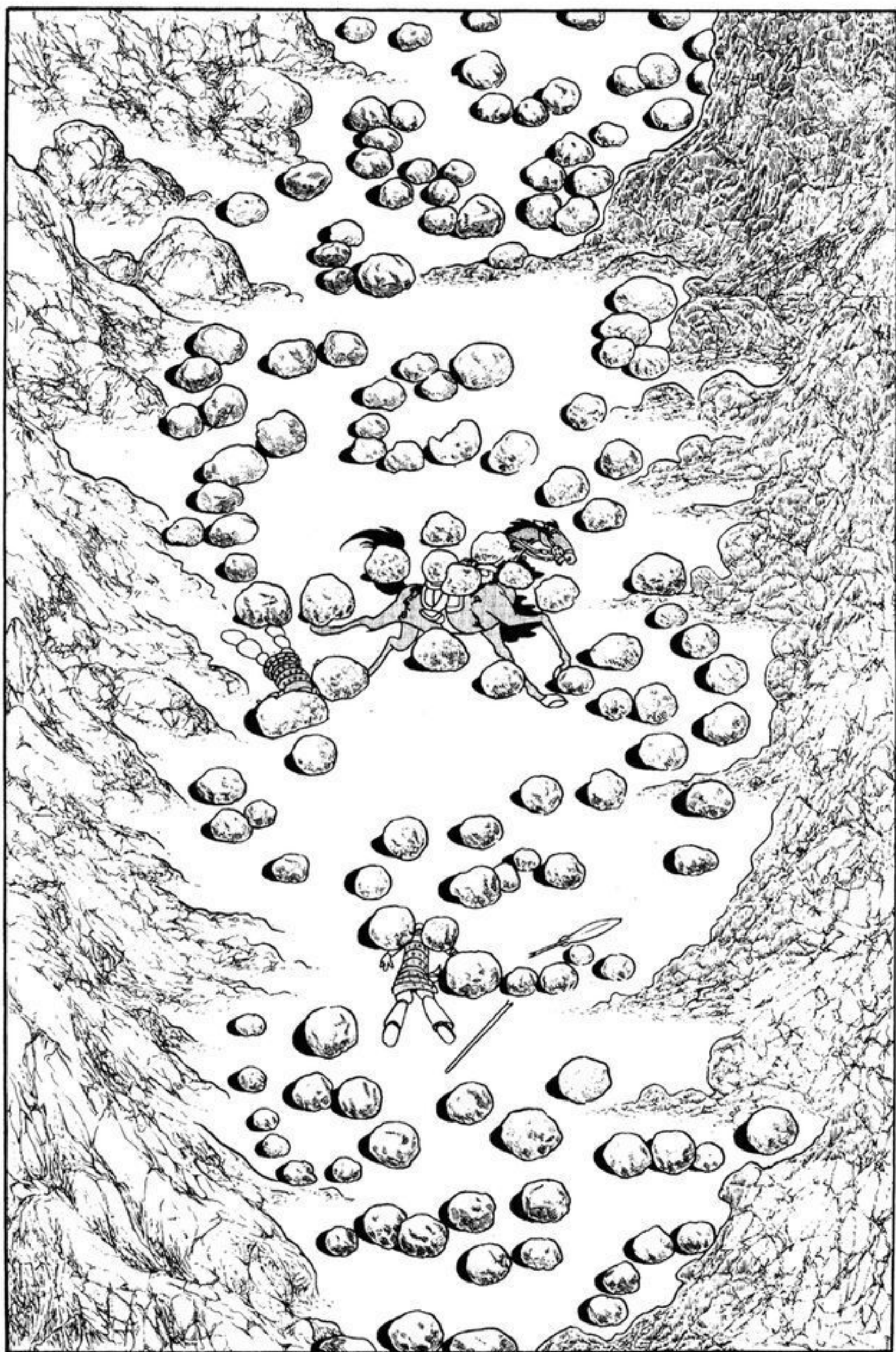




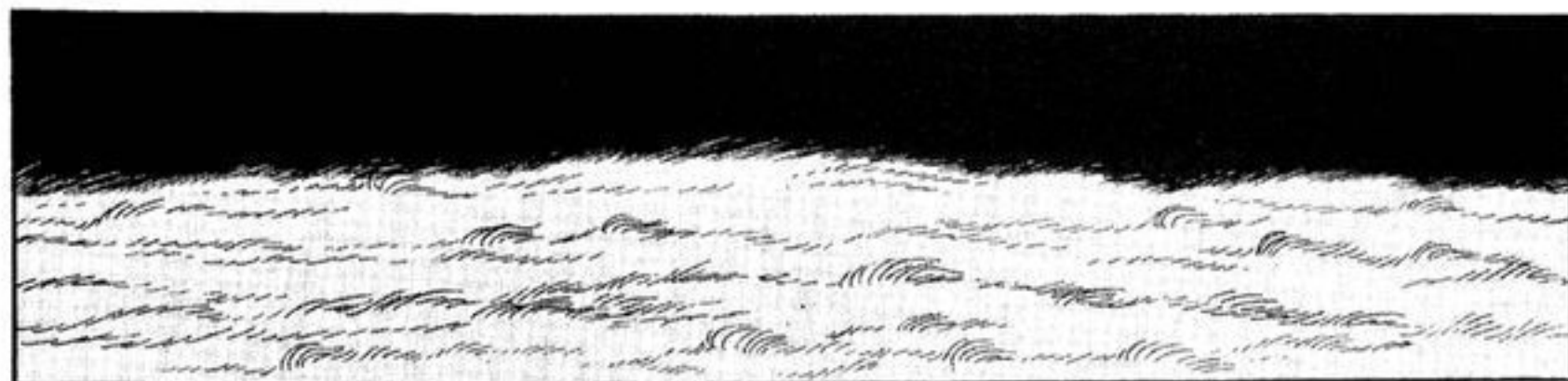
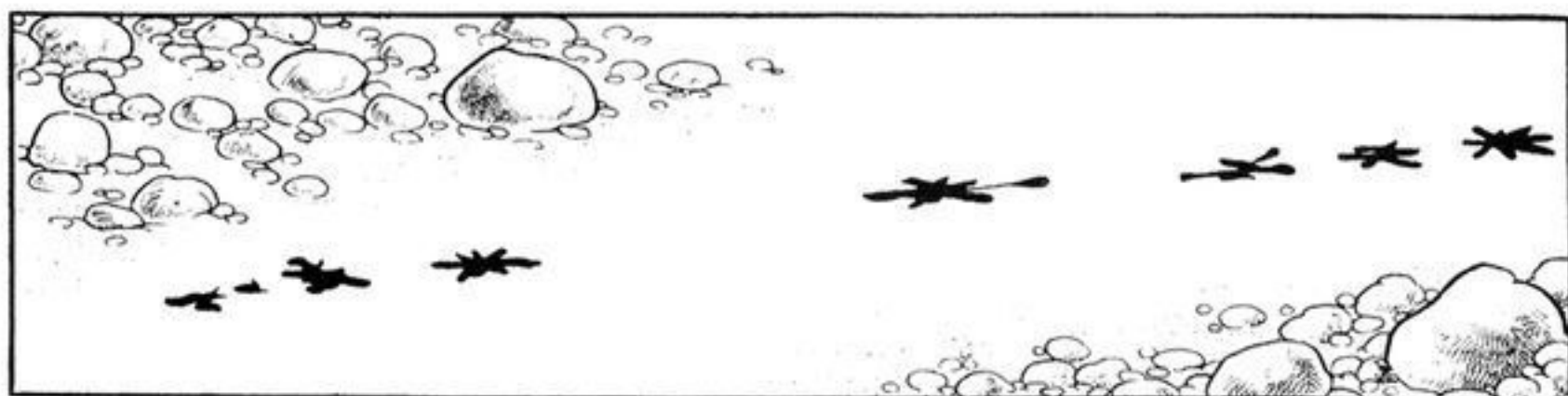




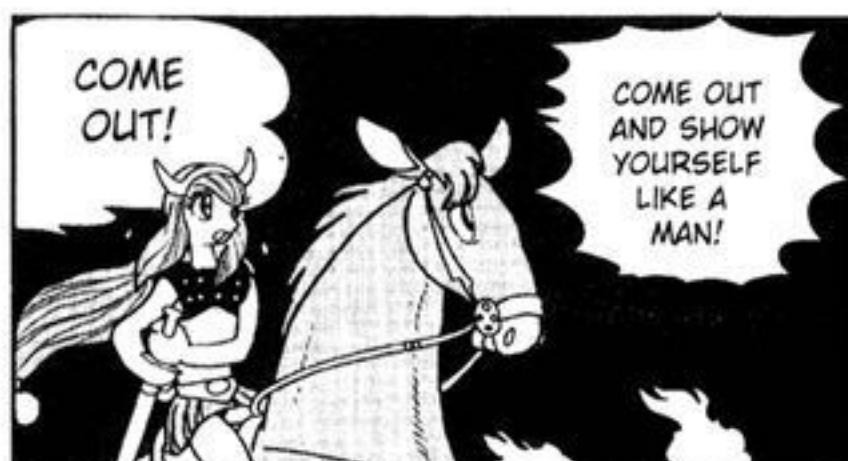
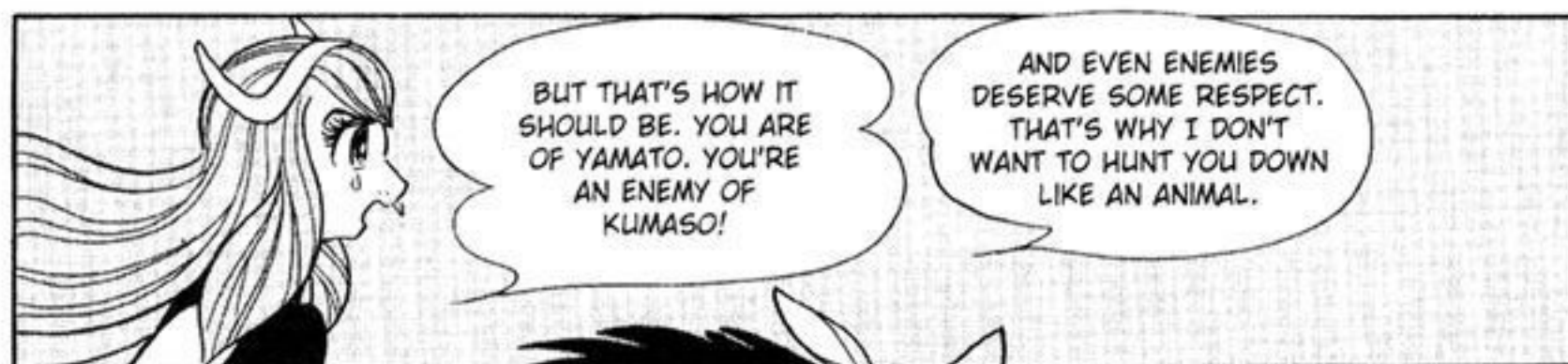




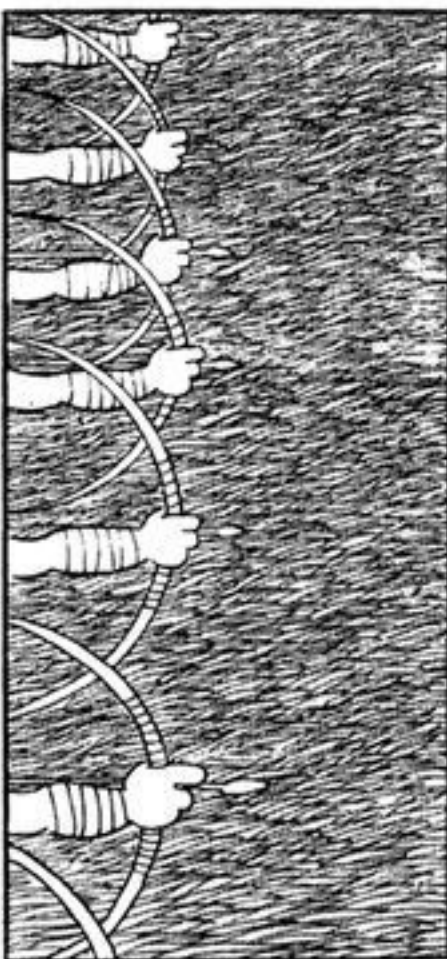
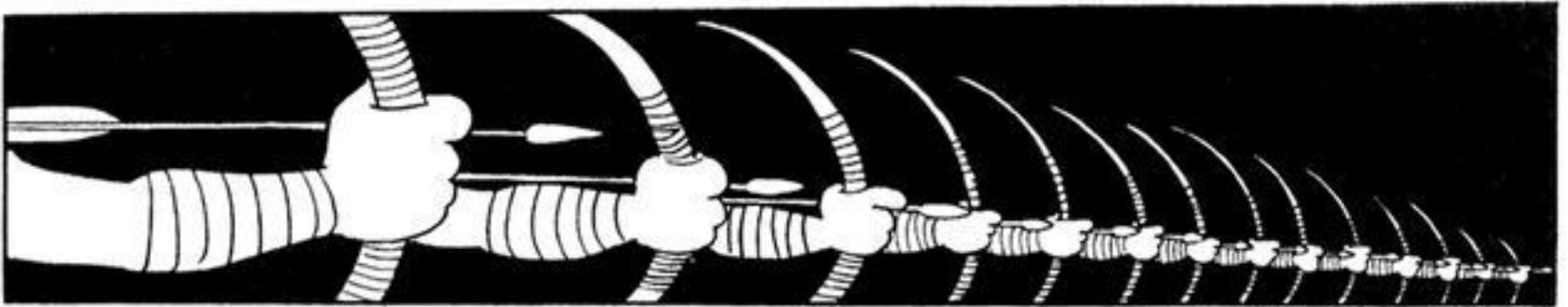




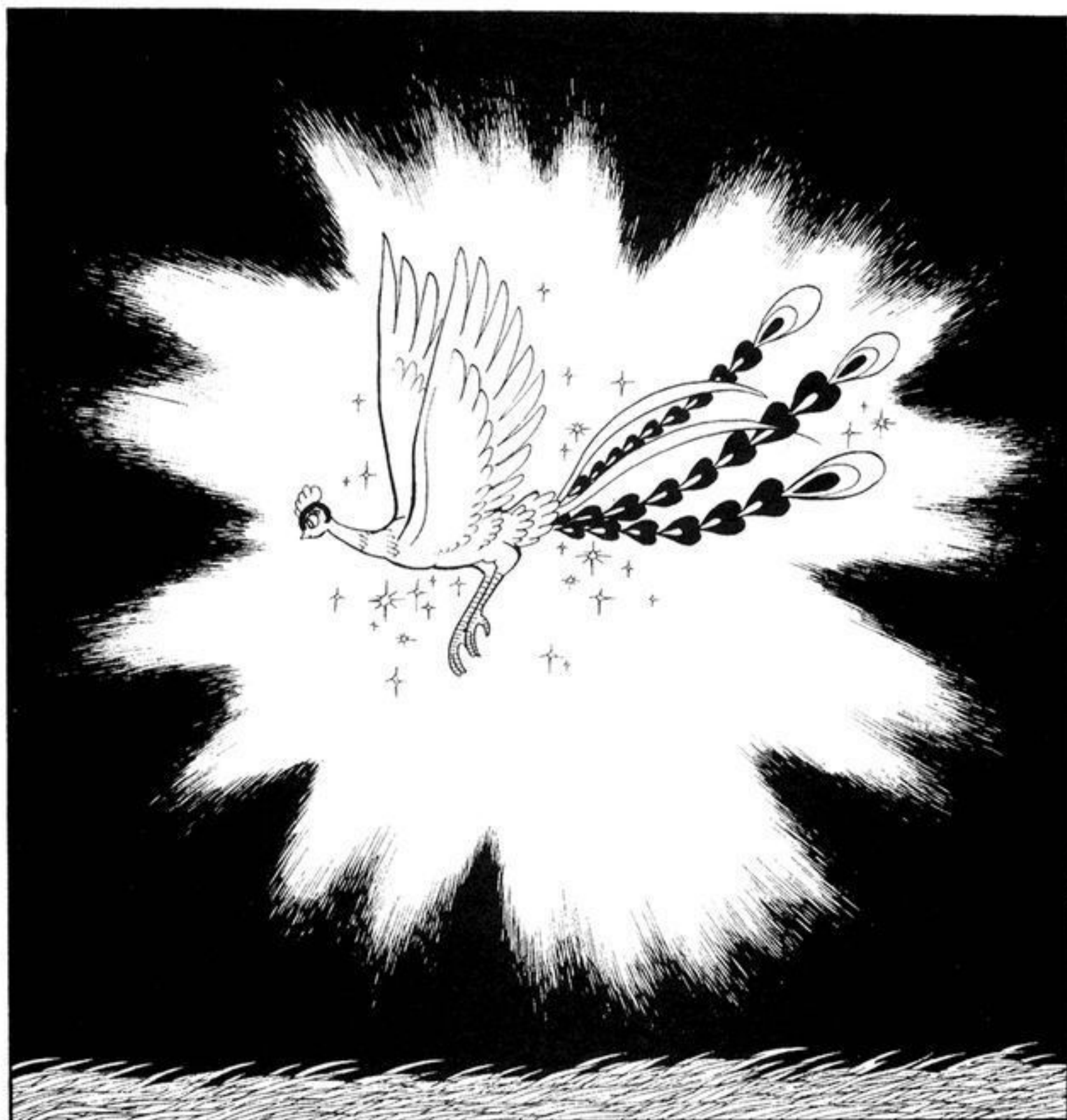




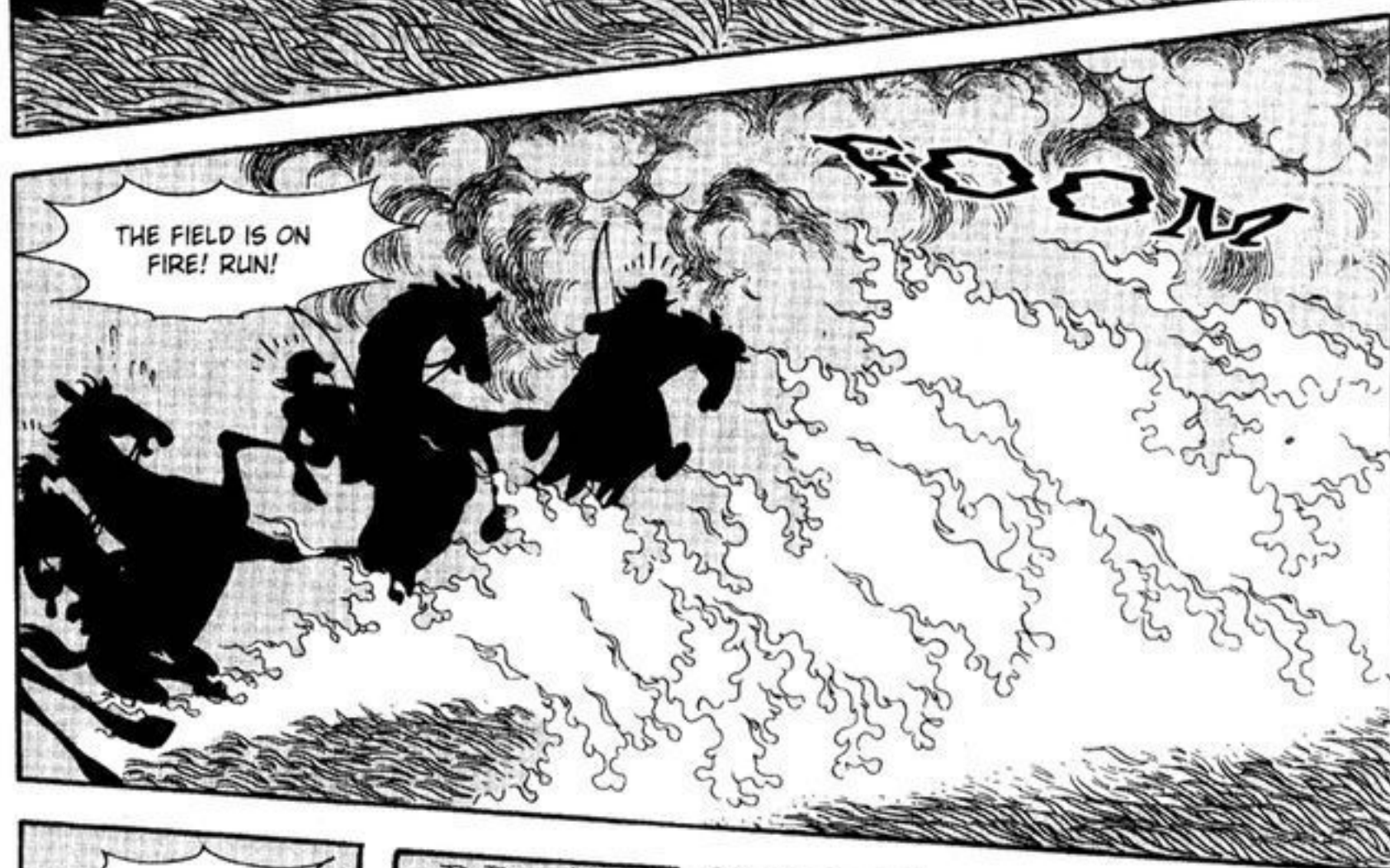
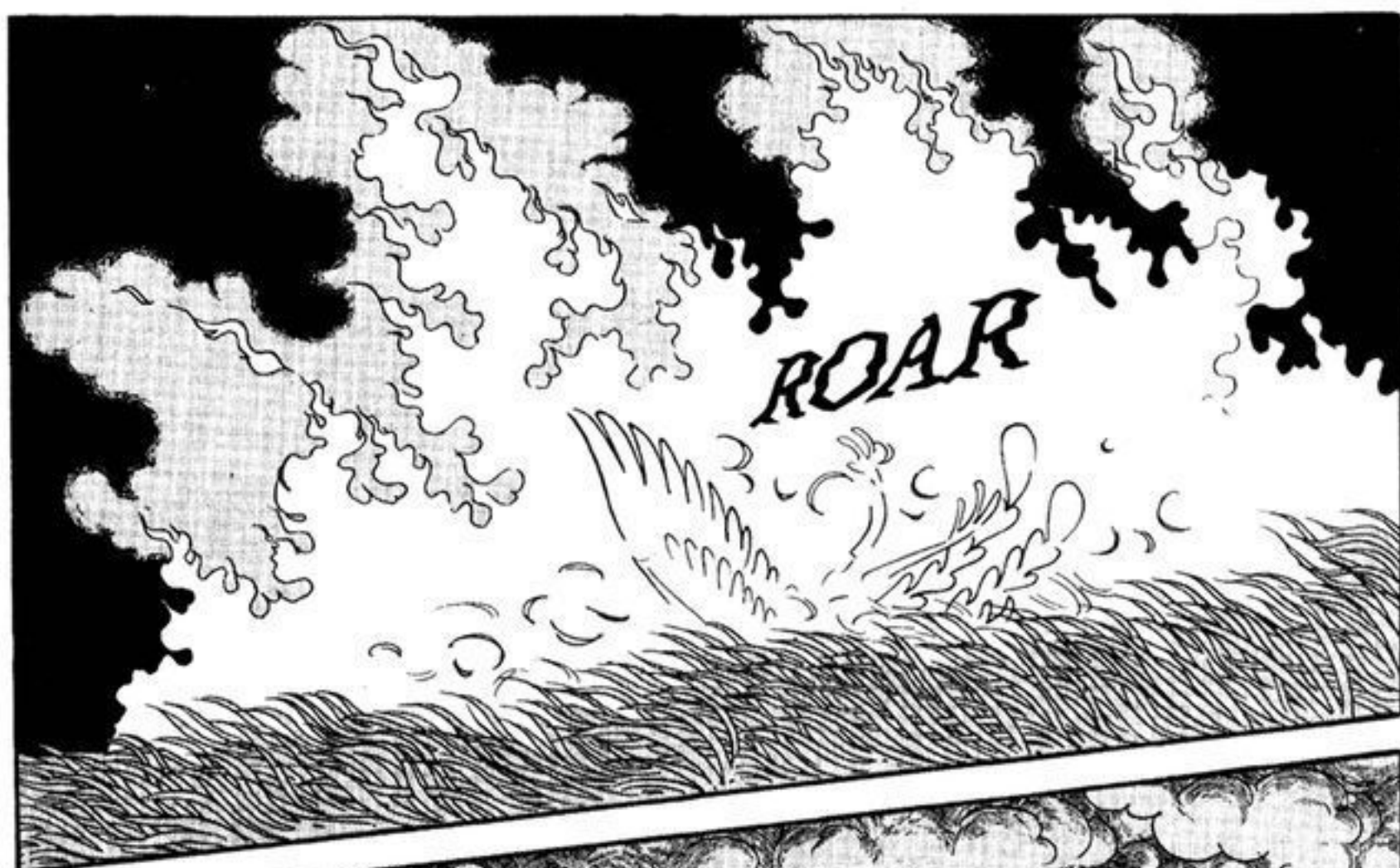




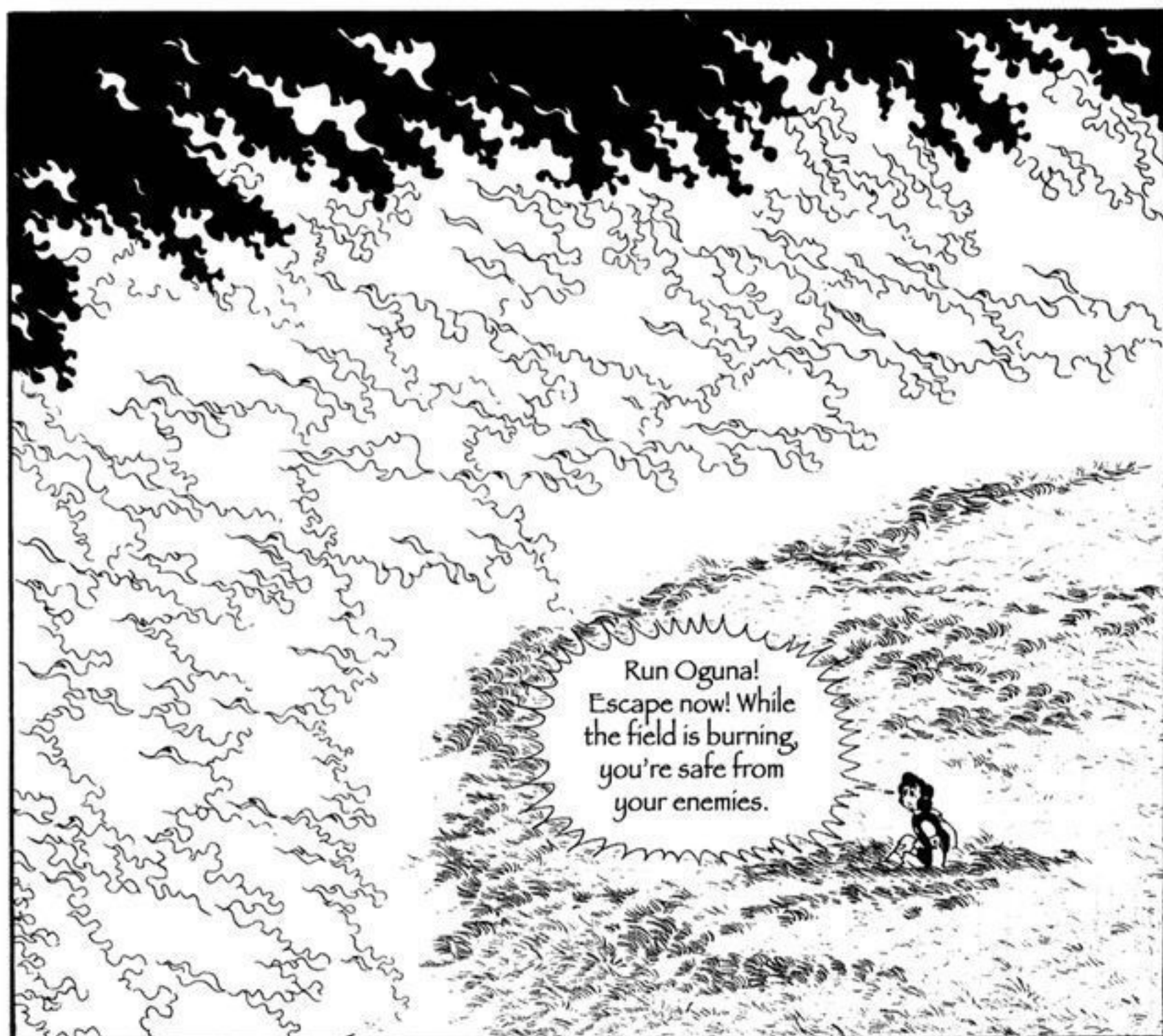












Run Oguna!  
Escape now! While  
the field is burning,  
you're safe from  
your enemies.

BUT...WHY  
ARE YOU  
HELPING ME?!

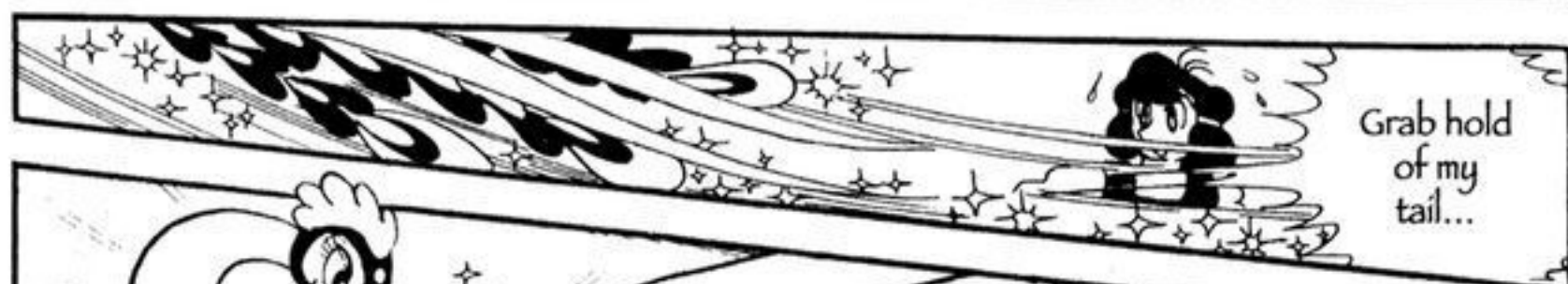


The fire is spreading to the  
west! Run directly east!  
Clear a path with your sword!

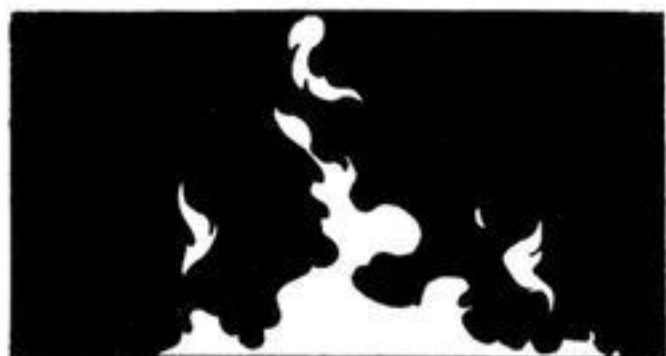
Quickly!







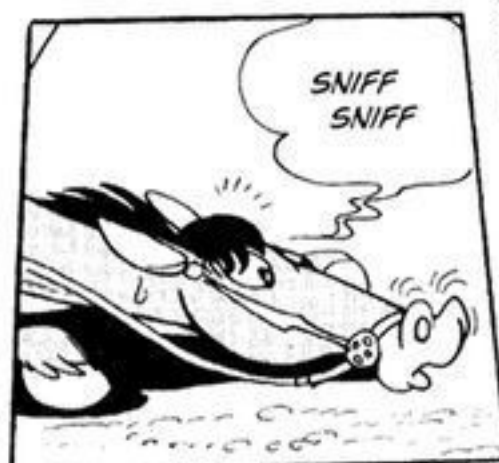
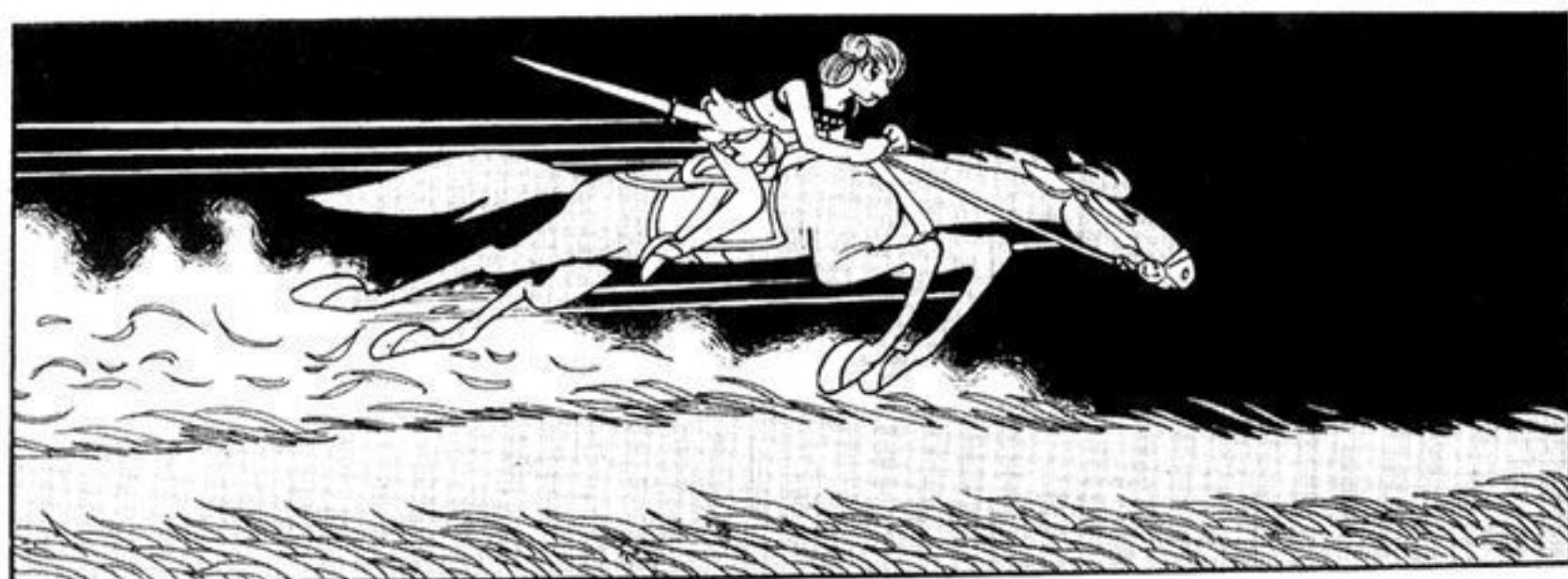




















DO YOU  
REALLY  
LIKE MY  
MUSIC?!

IS THAT  
WHY YOU  
SAVED  
ME?



I  
COMPOSED  
THIS SONG  
TWO YEARS  
AGO...  
FOR MYSELF  
REALLY...  
A FRIEND OF  
MINE HAD  
DIED  
SUDDENLY  
ONE  
SUMMER  
DAY...

HE WAS  
A FINE  
PERSON,  
BUT WAS  
KILLED BY  
THE SOLDIERS  
WHEN WE  
WERE DEMON-  
STRATING  
AGAINST MY  
FATHER'S  
STUPID PLAN  
TO BUILD A  
MAUSOLEUM  
FOR HIMSELF.  
IT HAPPENED  
RIGHT  
BEFORE MY  
EYES.



I WAS SO  
SHOCKED I  
WANTED TO  
CRY, BUT I  
COULDN'T...IT  
SEEMED THAT  
PEOPLE ARE  
KILLED TOO  
EASILY...  
AND I BECAME  
ANGERED  
RATHER THAN  
SAD...  
THAT'S WHEN  
I THOUGHT  
OF THIS  
SONG...





Thank  
you,  
Oguna.

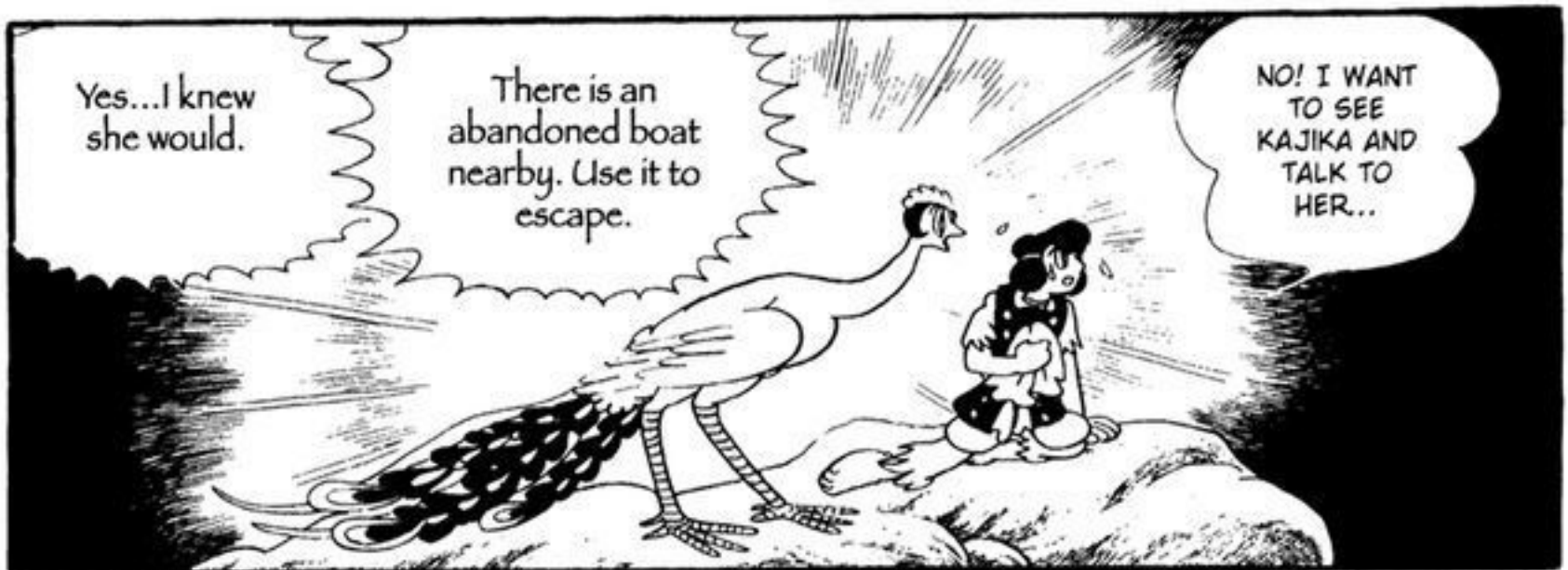
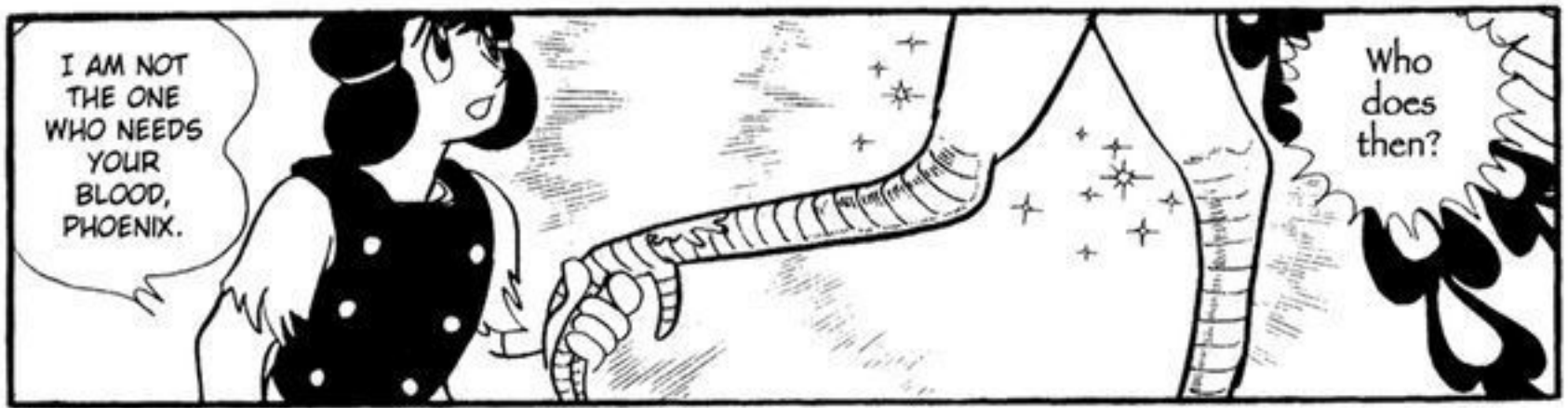
You have  
pleased me  
greatly with your  
music...what  
should I do for  
you in return?

Do you wish  
to drink my  
blood?

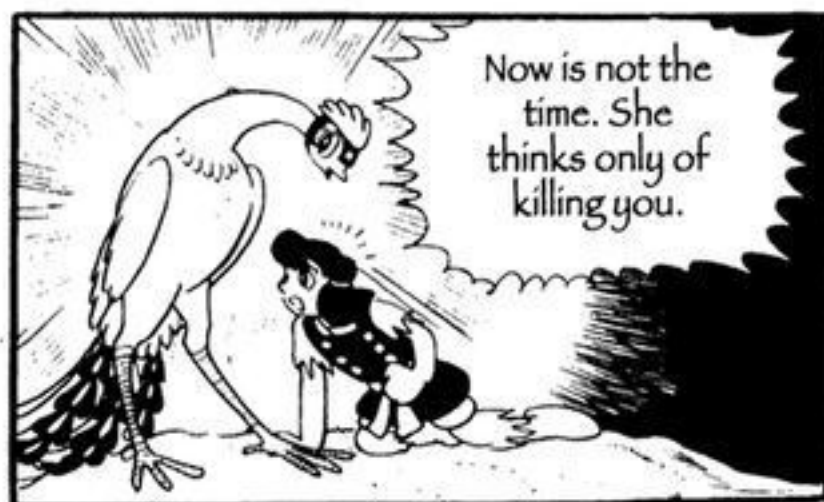
Go ahead...  
isn't this  
what you  
desire?

I have never  
given this to any  
human before.  
Take it as an  
expression of my  
gratitude.

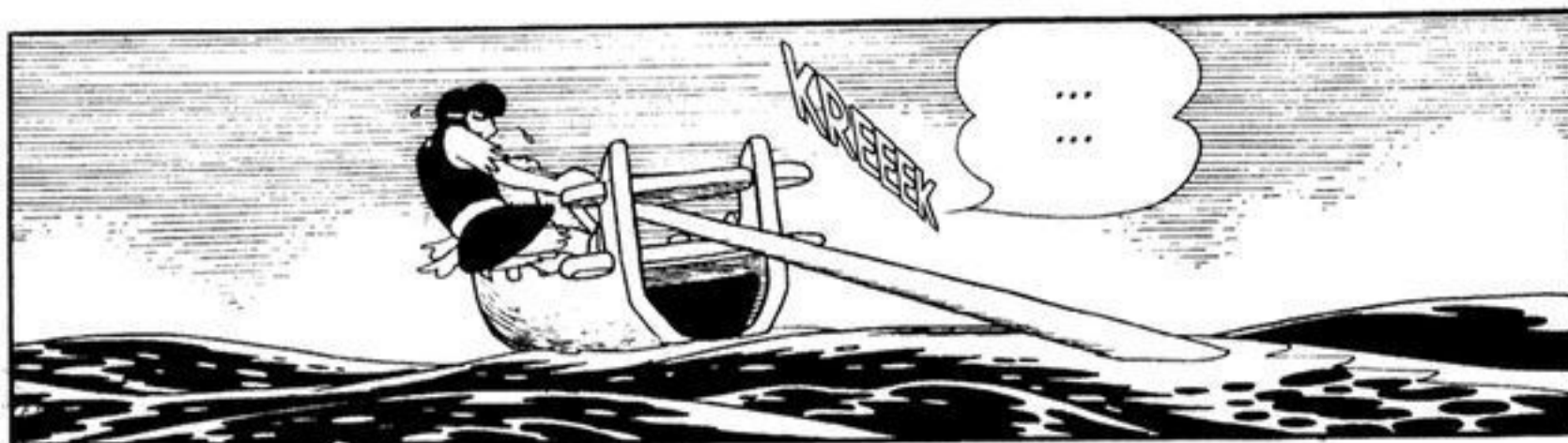




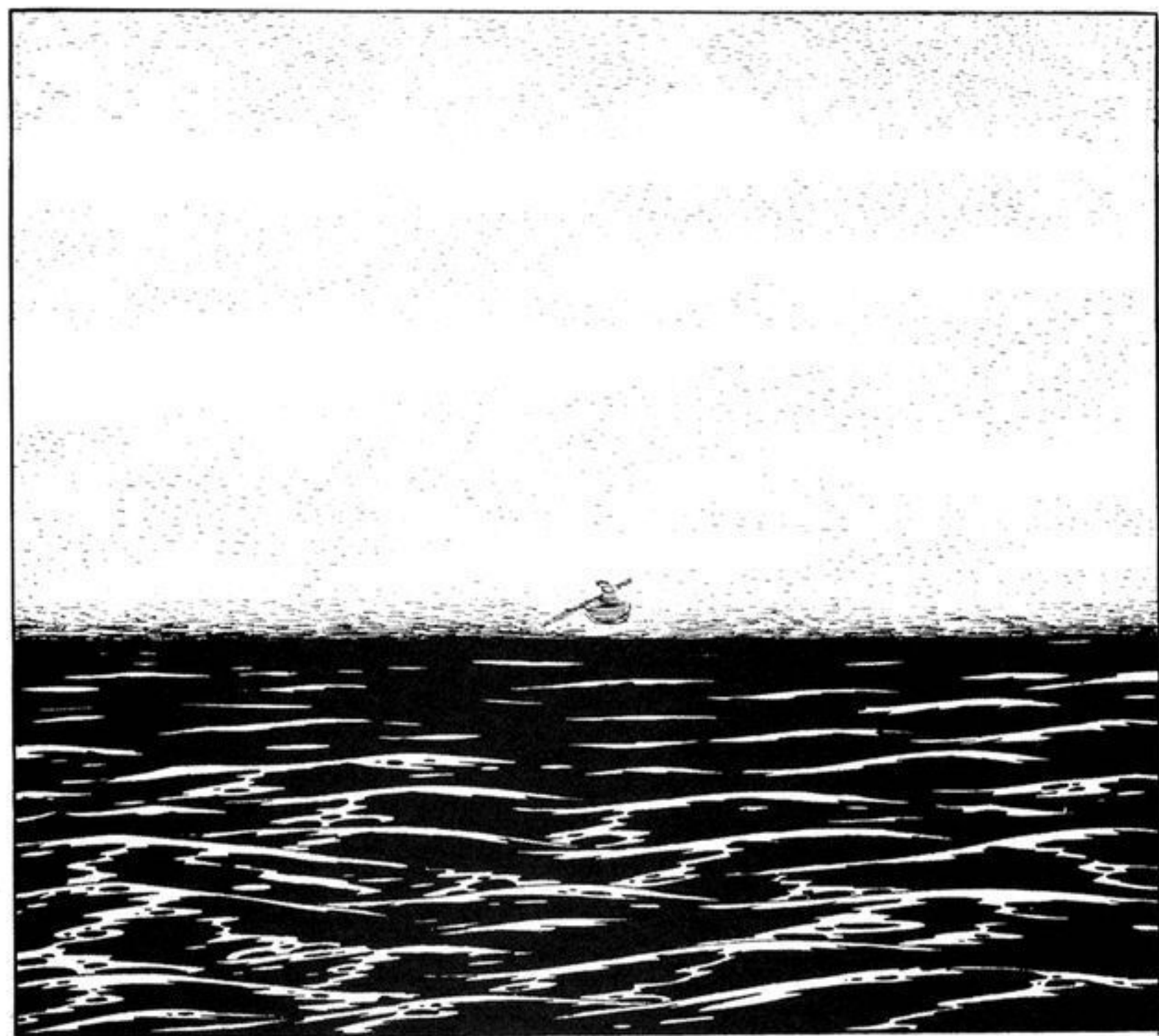




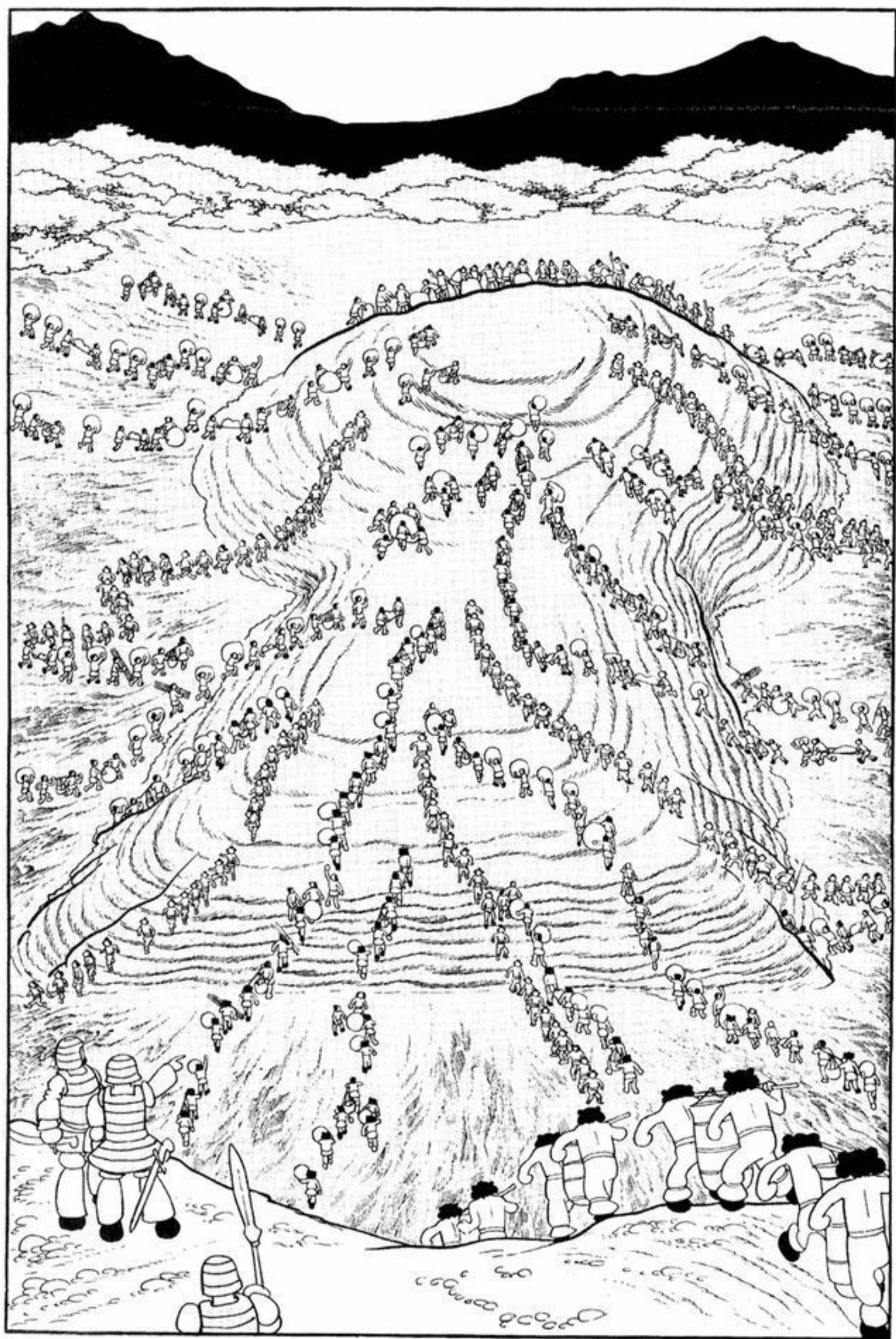












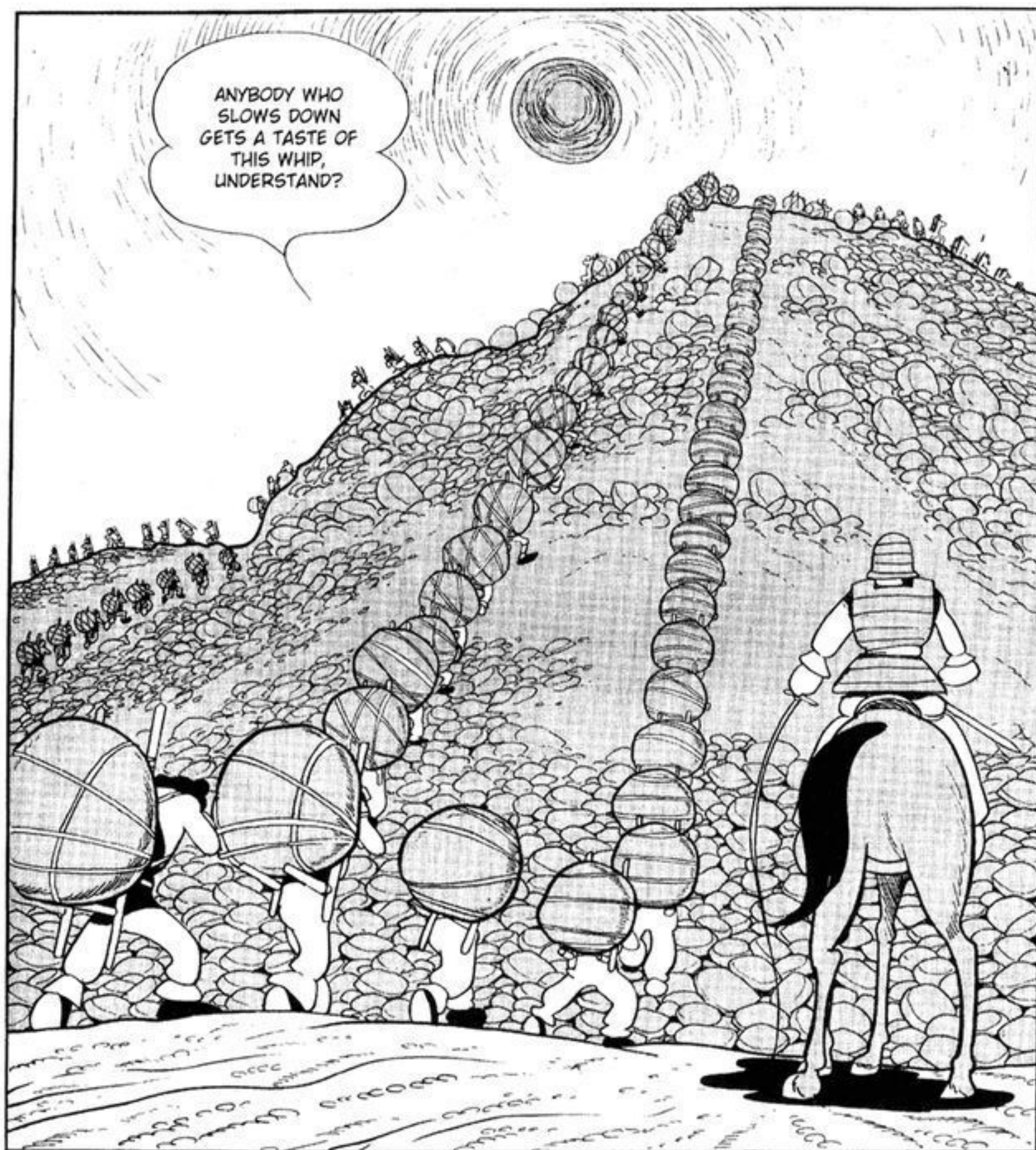
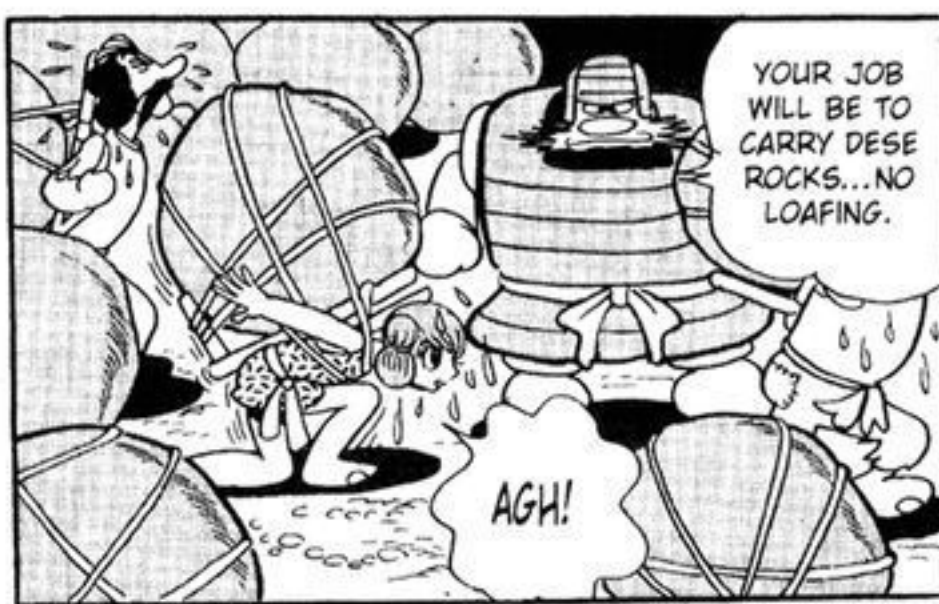




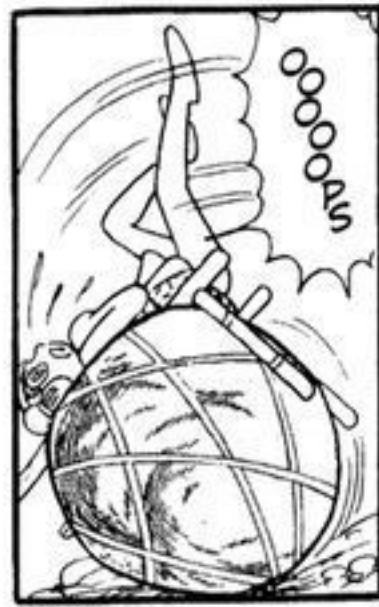




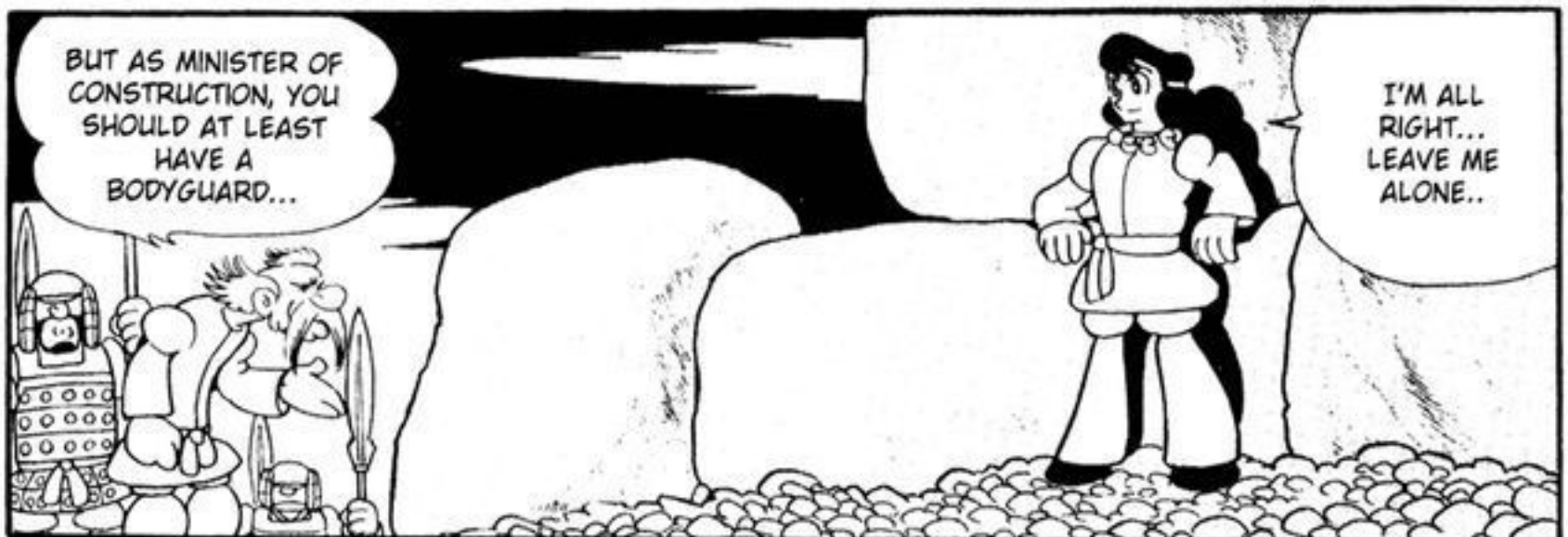
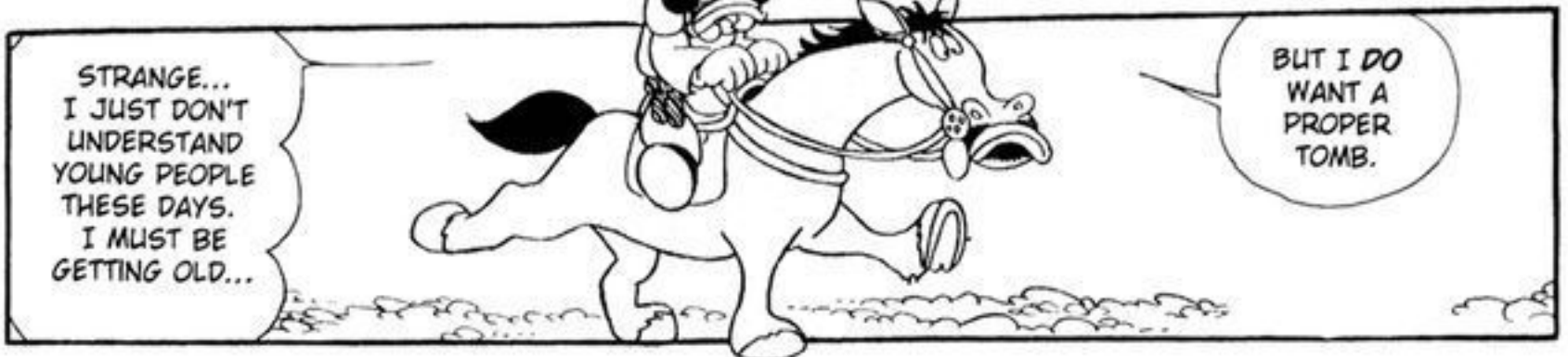
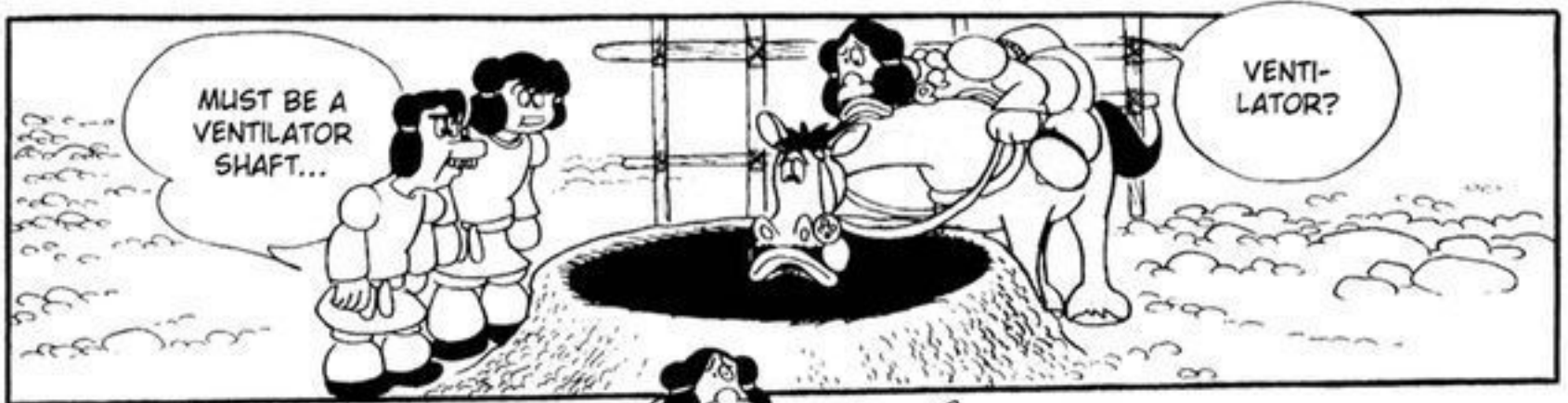
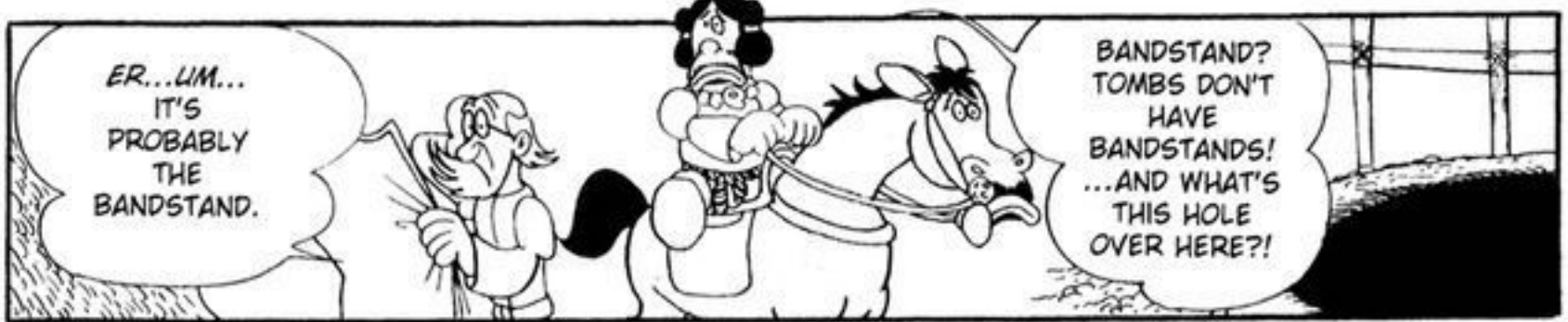




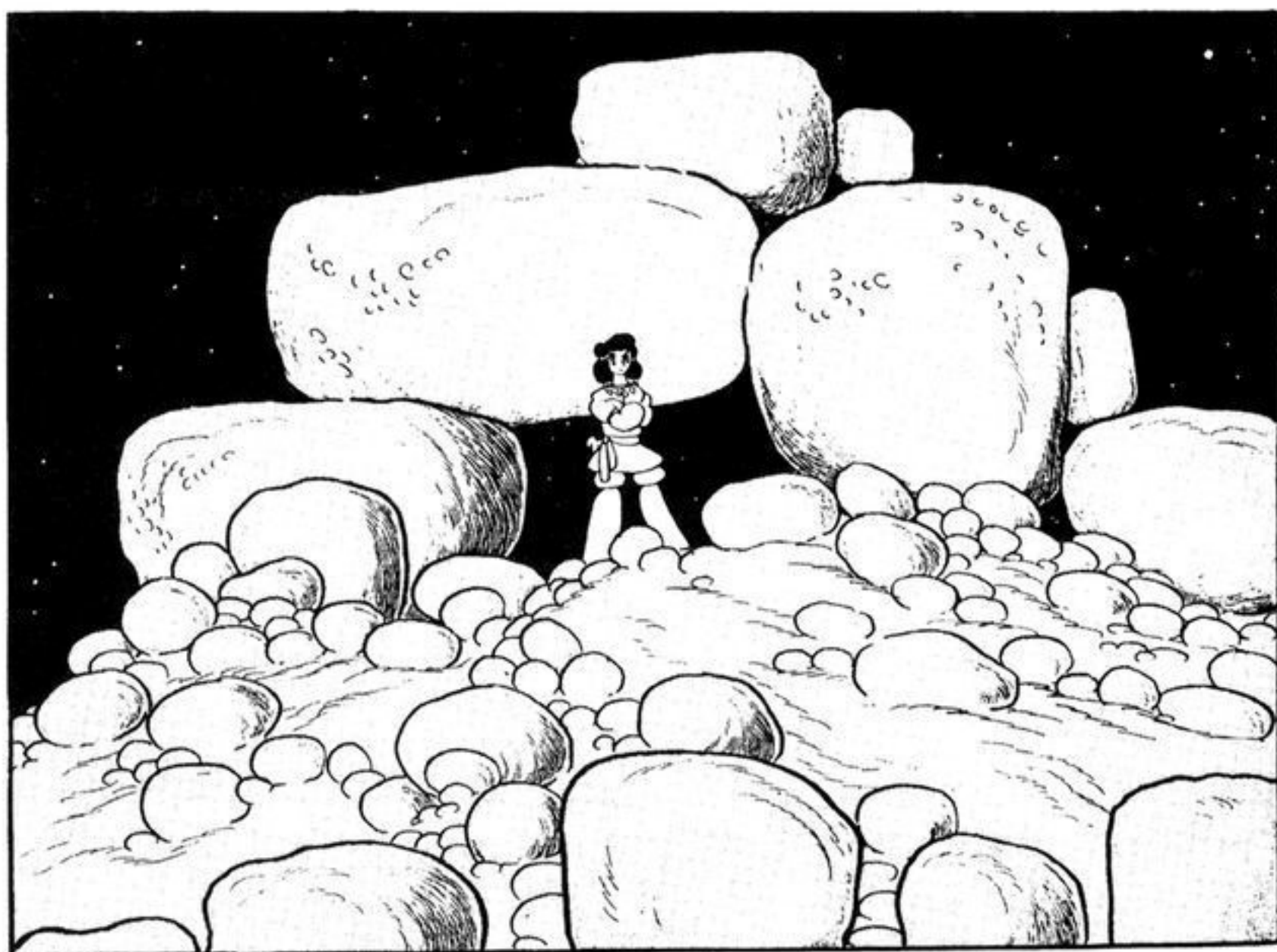
















THAT'S WHY I ACCEPTED THIS JOB.

COMPLETION OF THIS TOMB IS MY GOAL IN LIFE.

JUST AS COMPLETING KUMASO'S HISTORY WAS YOUR BROTHER'S GOAL IN LIFE.

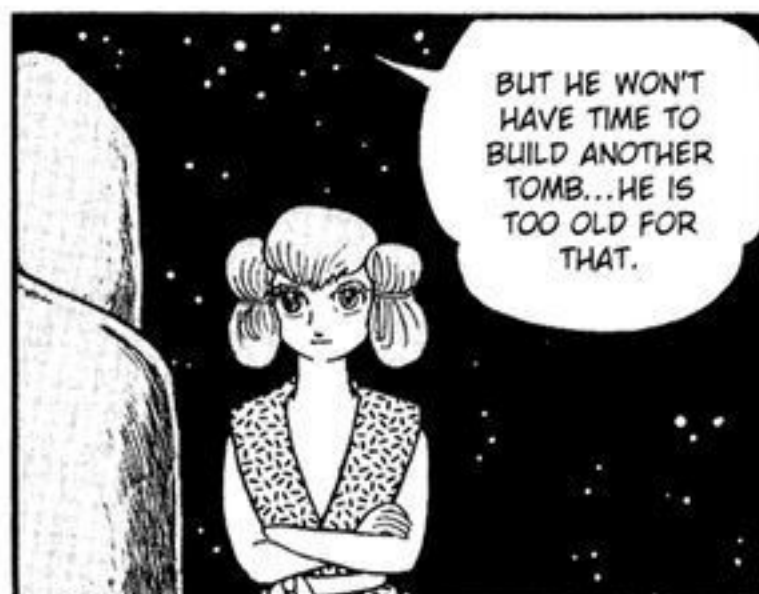


WHAT I'M BUILDING HERE, THOUGH, IS NOT A MAUSOLEUM...

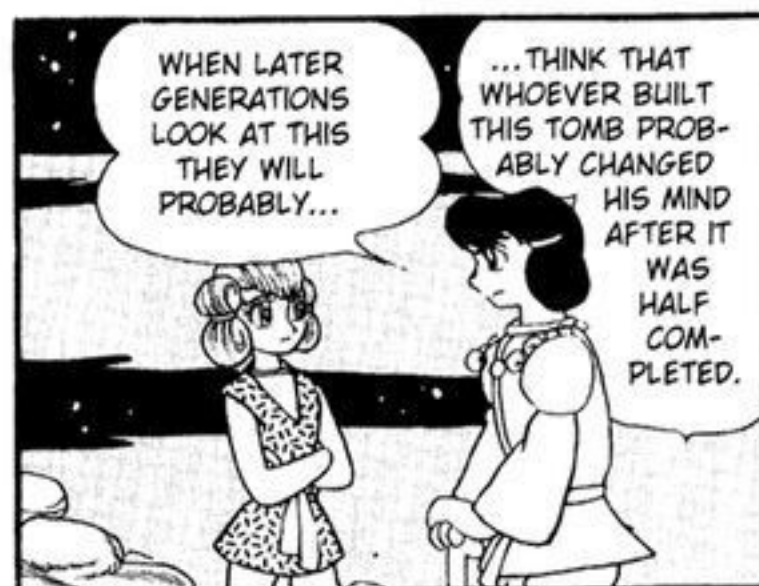
...AS YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED.



MY FATHER HASN'T CAUGHT ON YET...BUT ONCE IT'S COMPLETED AND HE FINDS OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED HE'LL PROBABLY BE SO ANGRY HE'LL KILL ME.



BUT HE WON'T HAVE TIME TO BUILD ANOTHER TOMB...HE IS TOO OLD FOR THAT.



WHEN LATER GENERATIONS LOOK AT THIS THEY WILL PROBABLY...

...THINK THAT WHOEVER BUILT THIS TOMB PROBABLY CHANGED HIS MIND AFTER IT WAS HALF COMPLETED.



THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY. IF YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME, DO IT NOW.

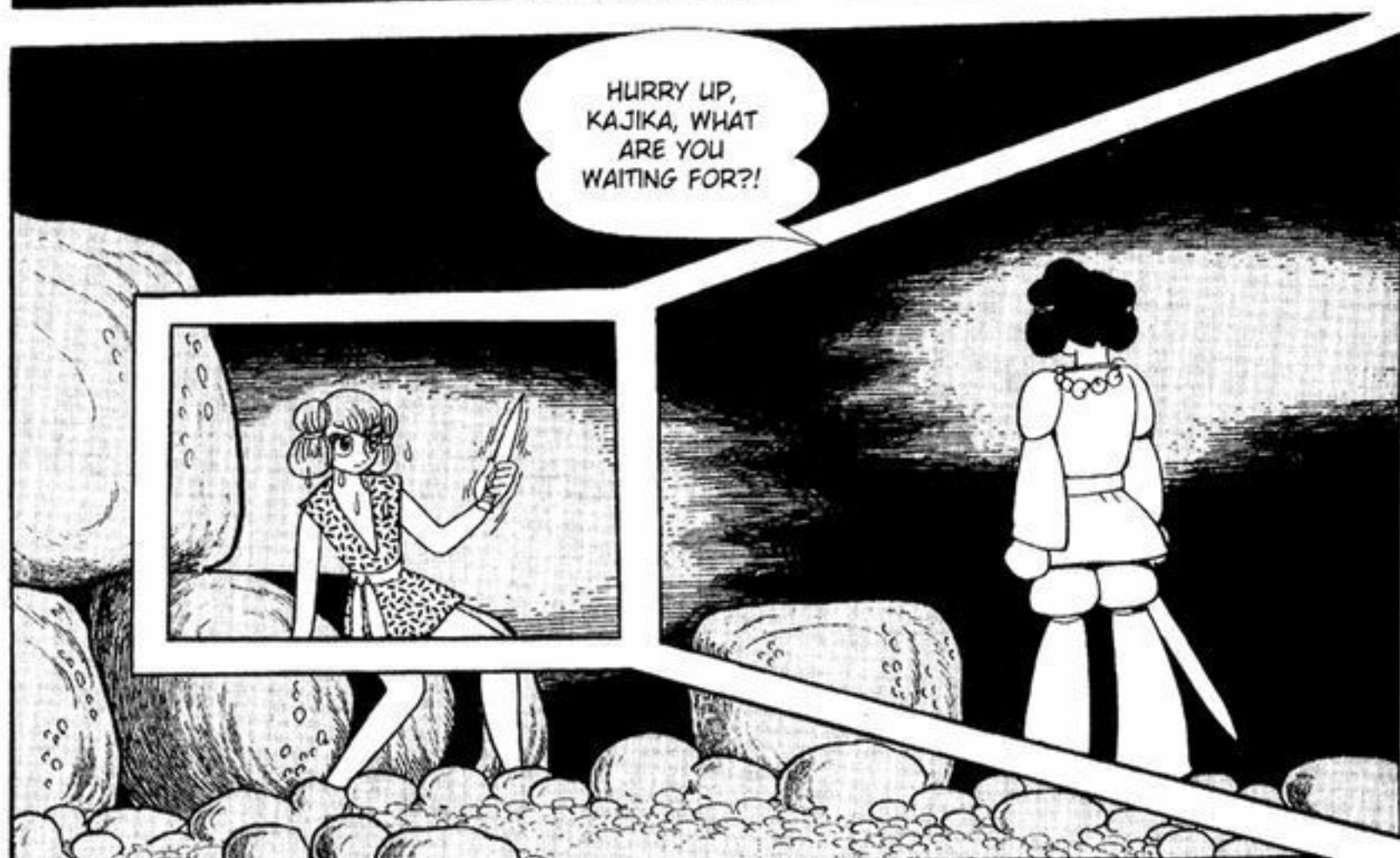
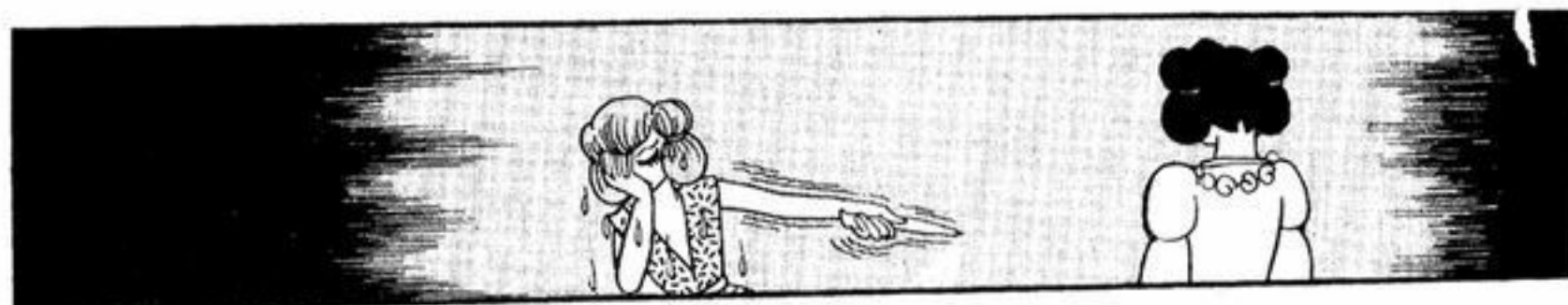


WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE BLOOD OF THE PHOENIX?

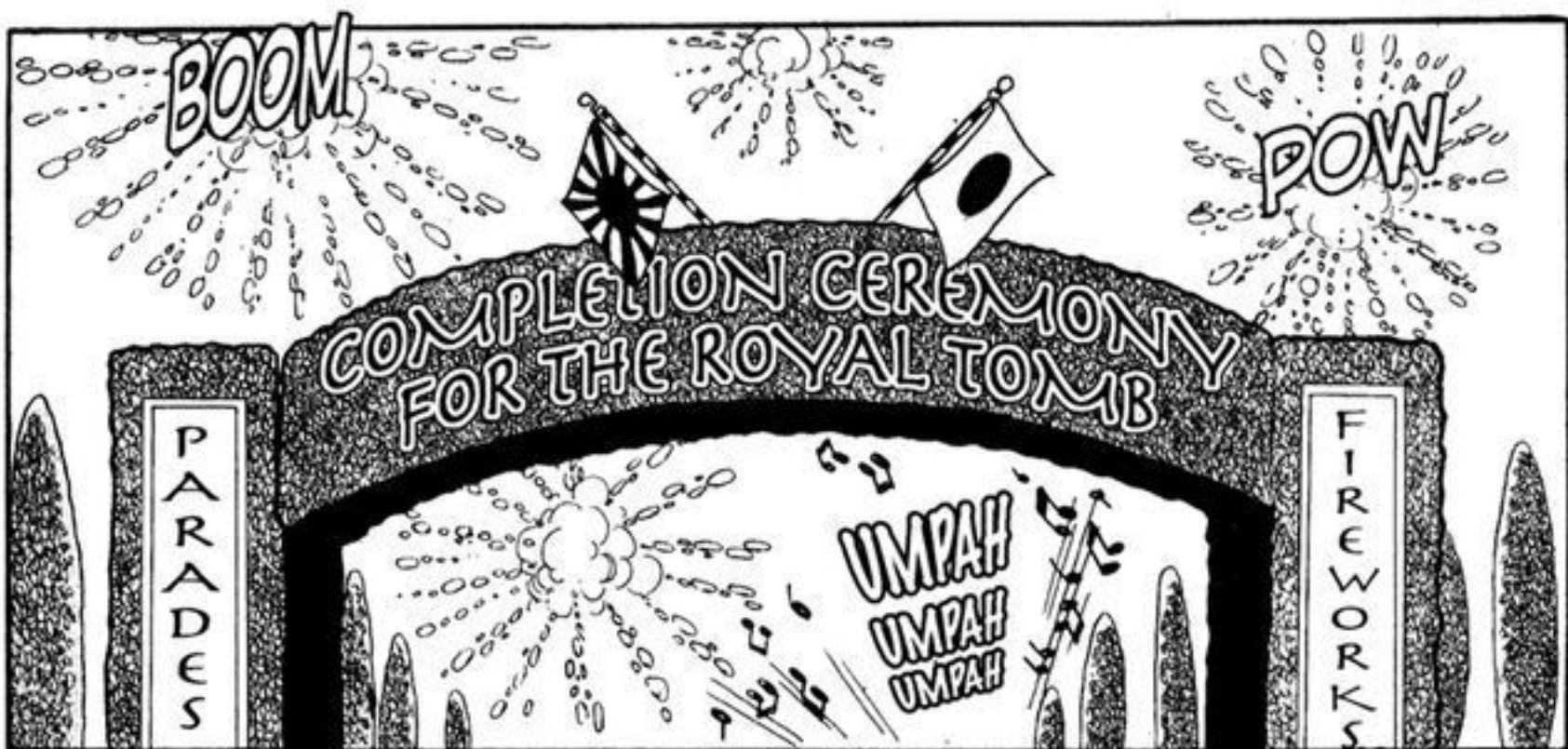
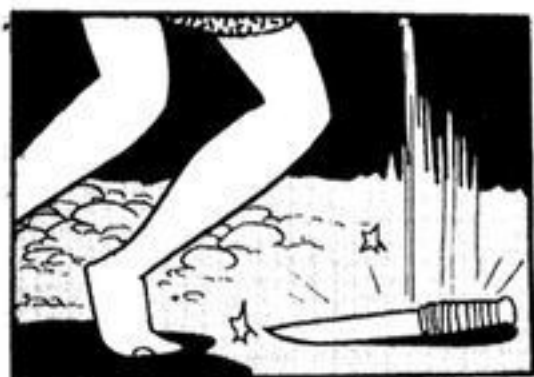


I HAVEN'T GIVEN IT TO A SOUL... HERE... IT'S RIGHT HERE!

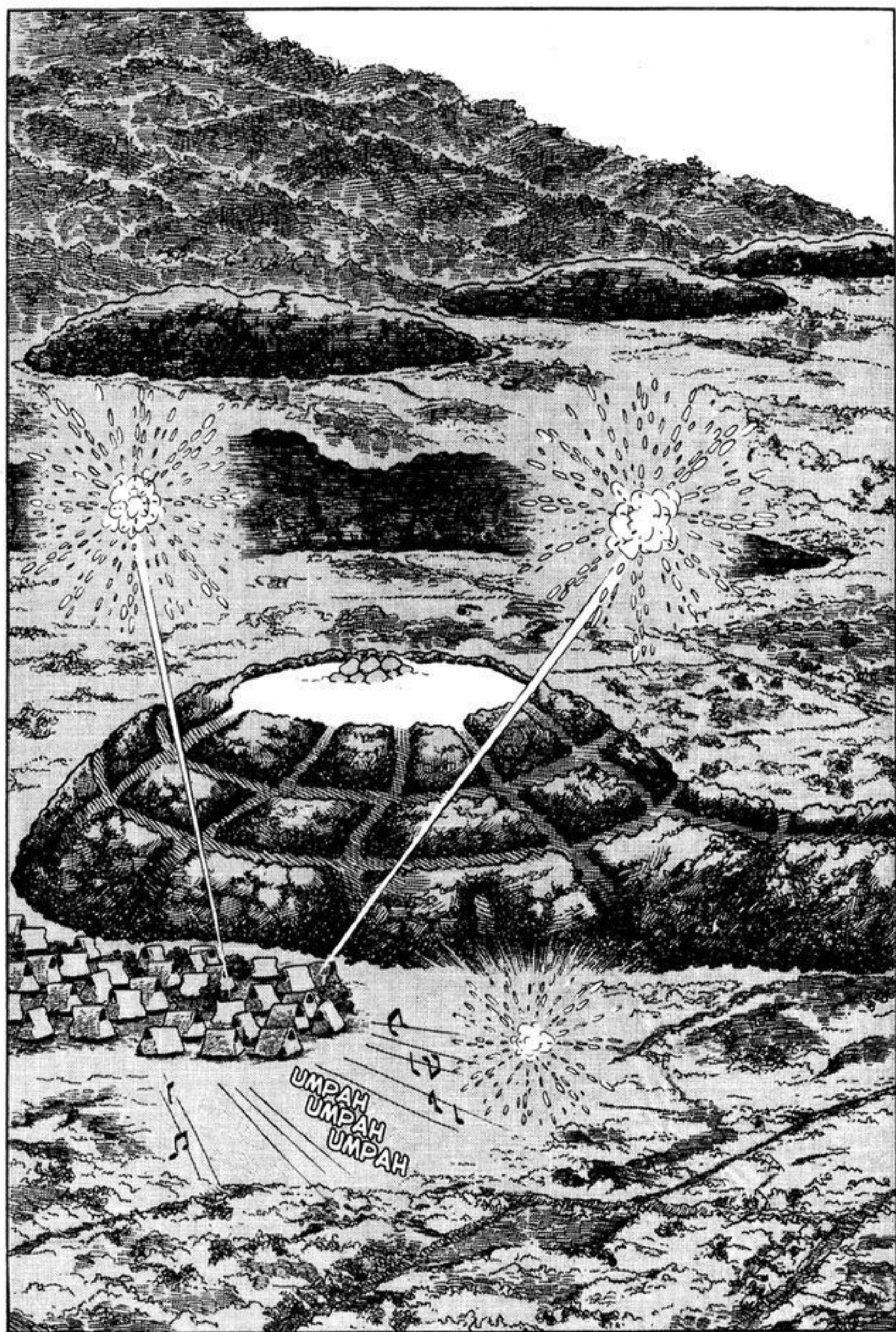




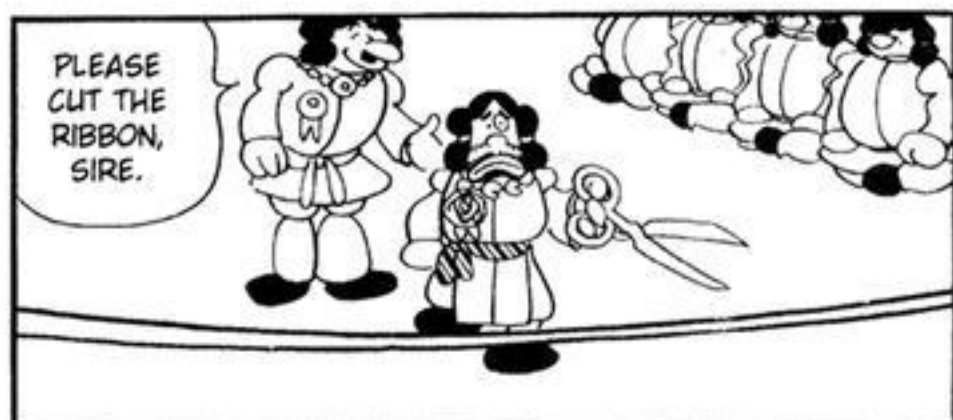




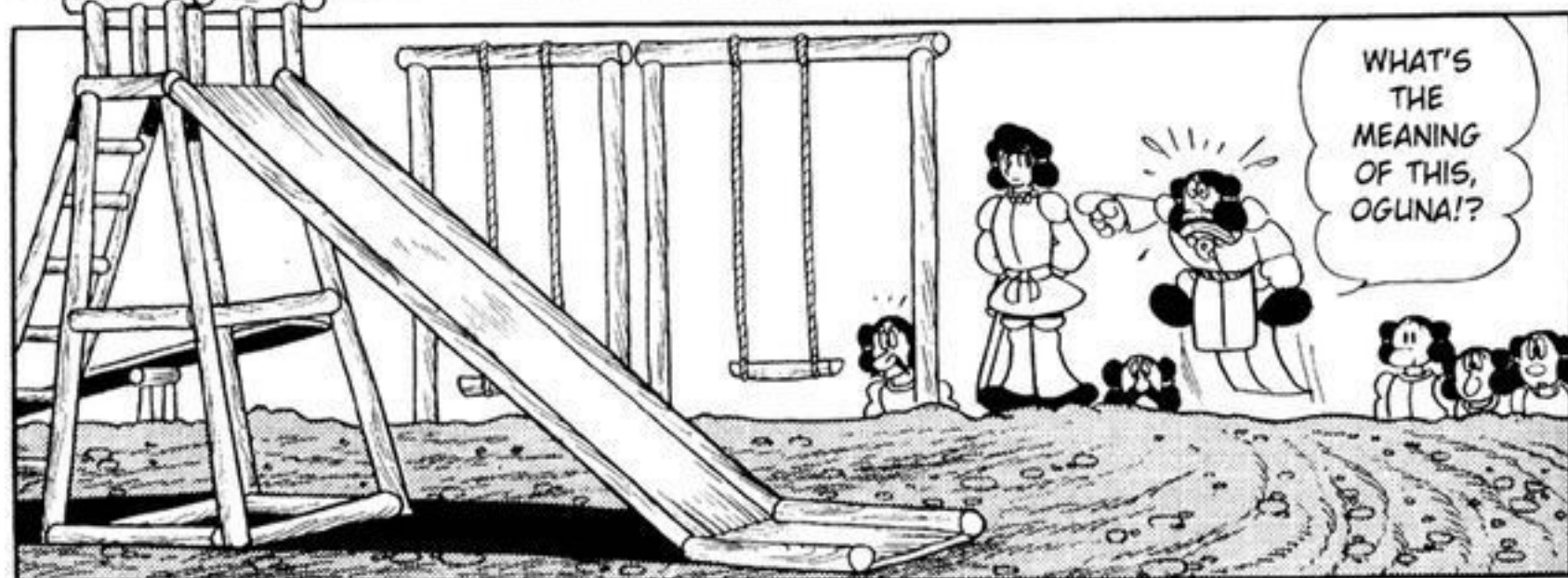
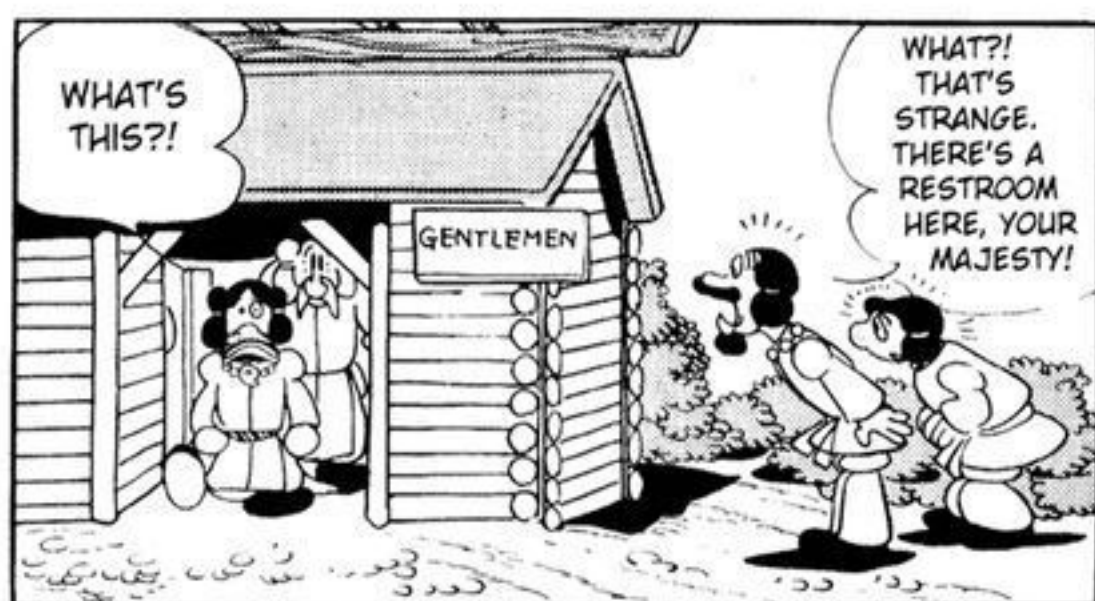




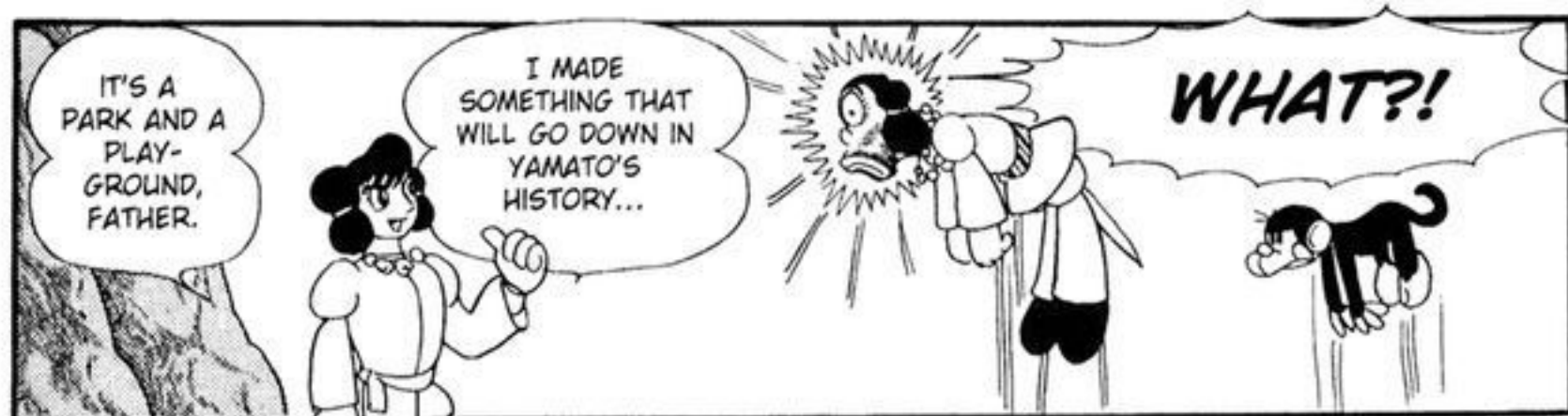




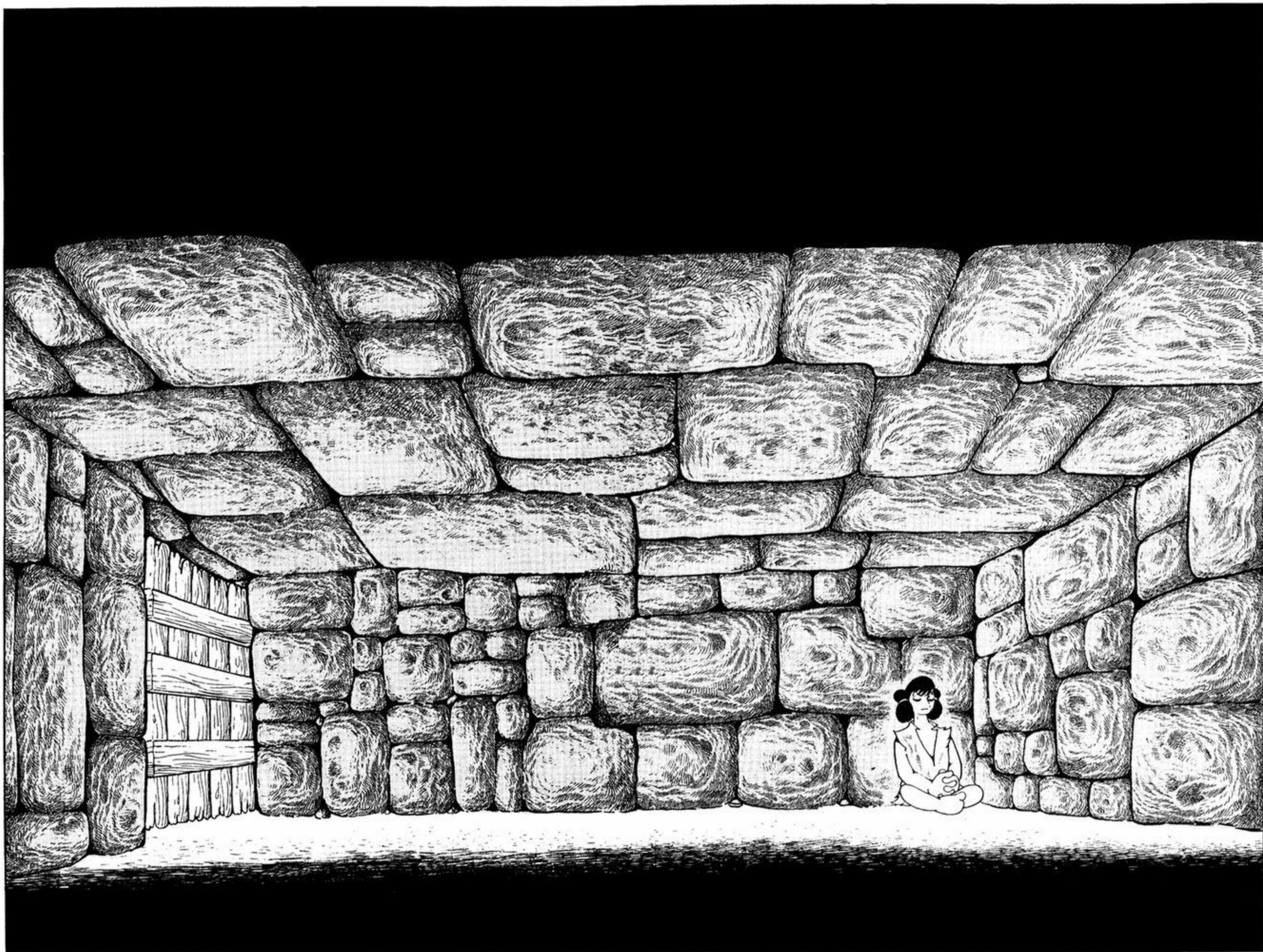




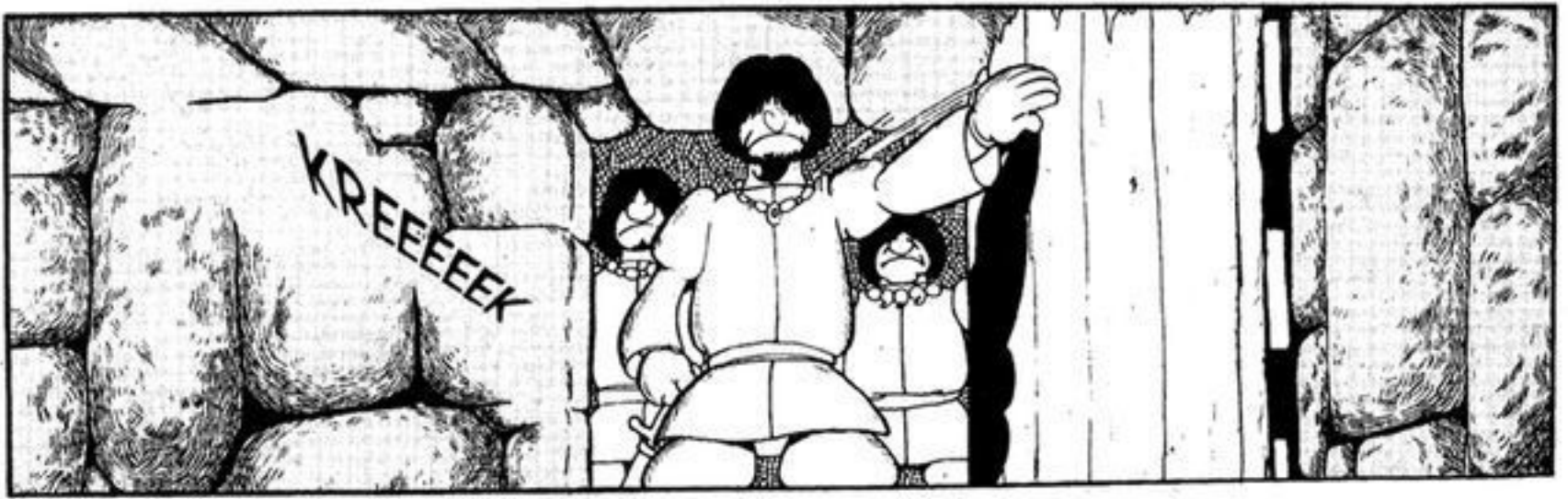




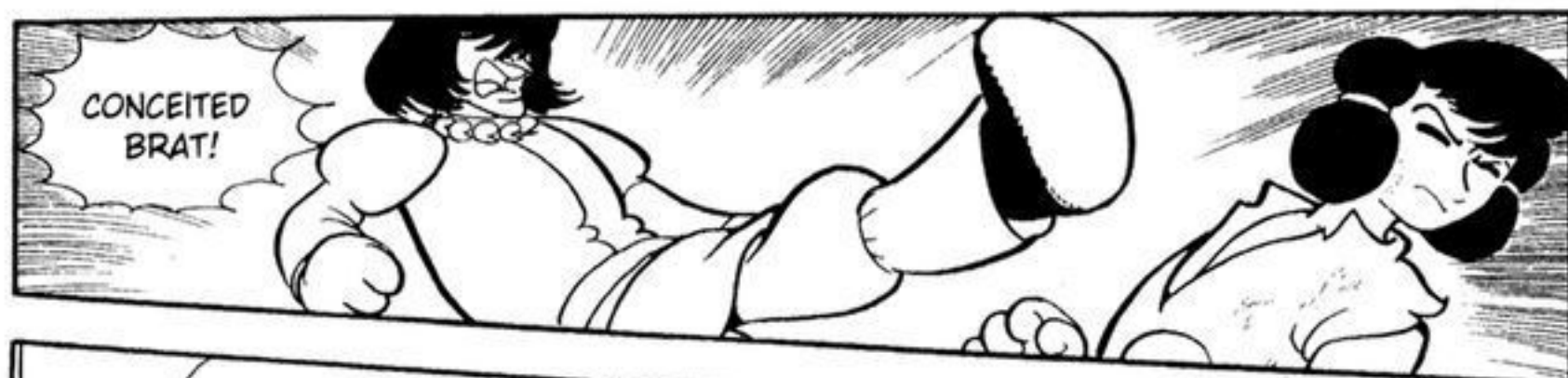




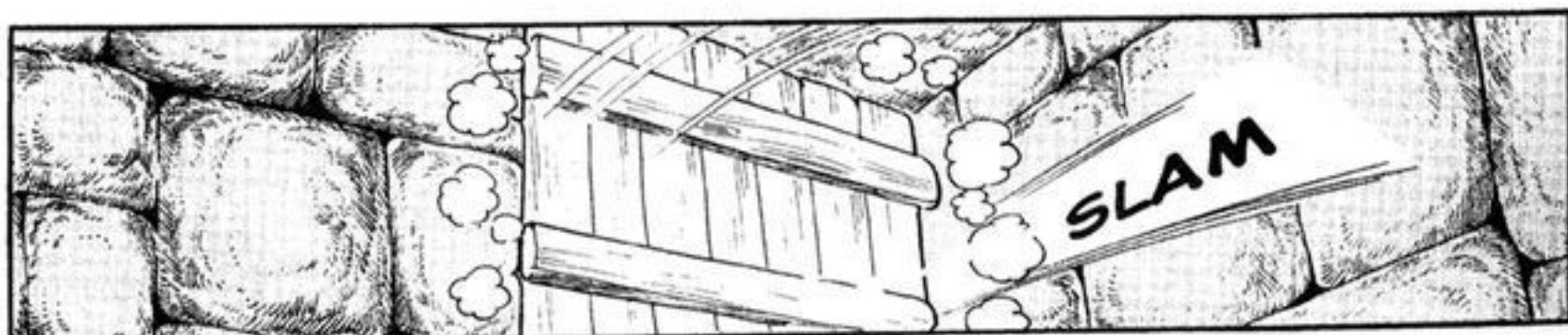
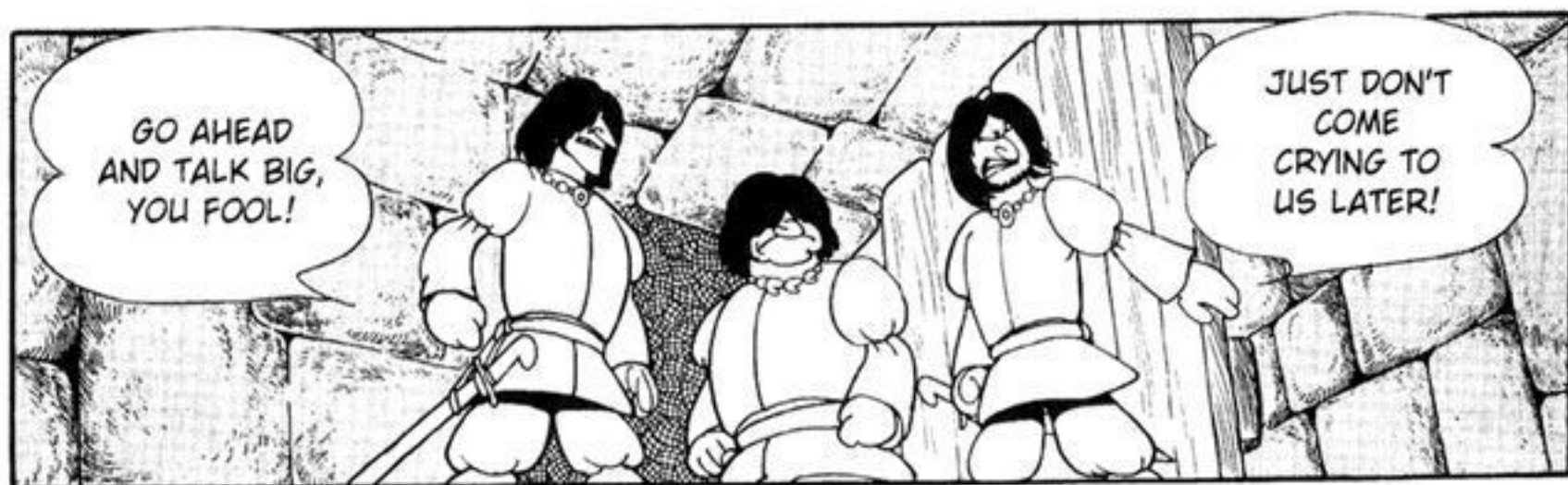




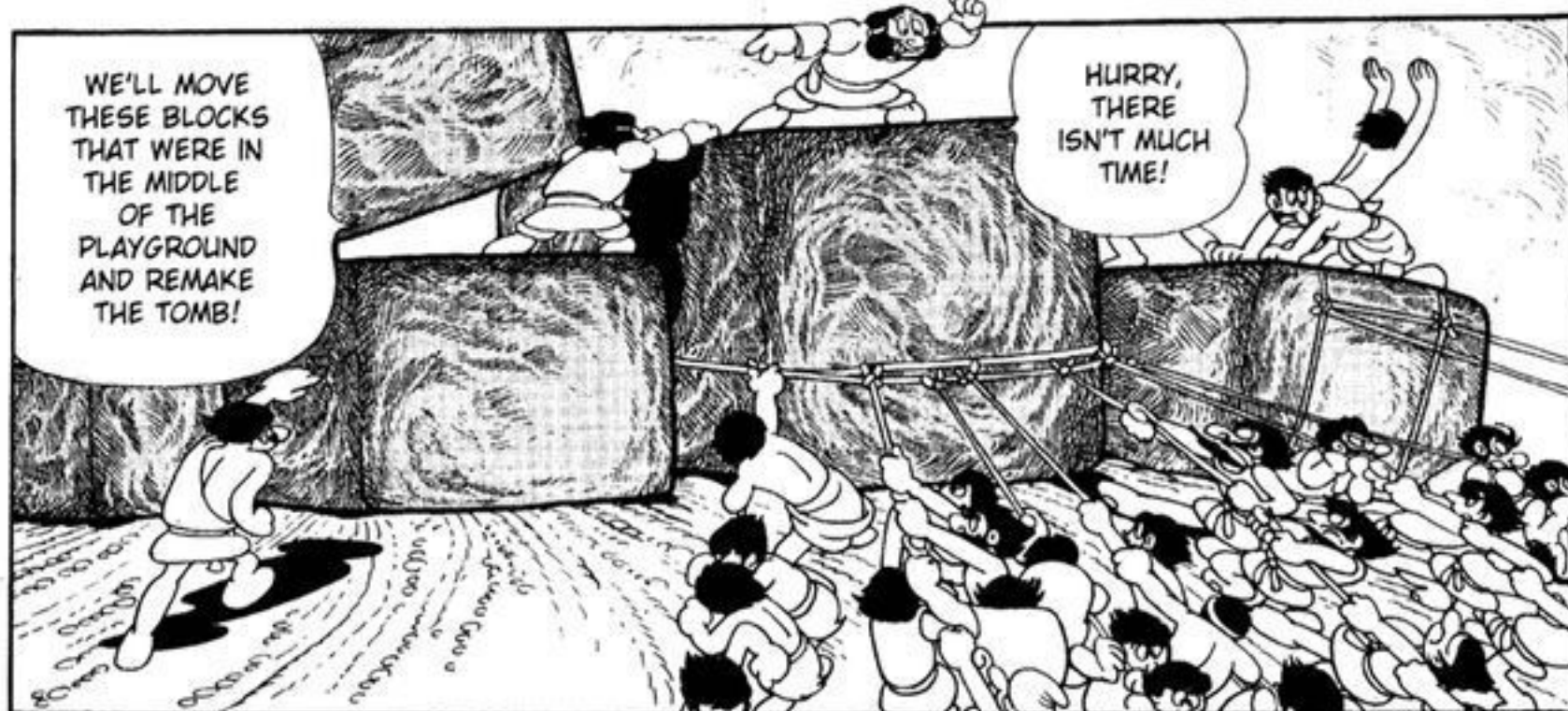
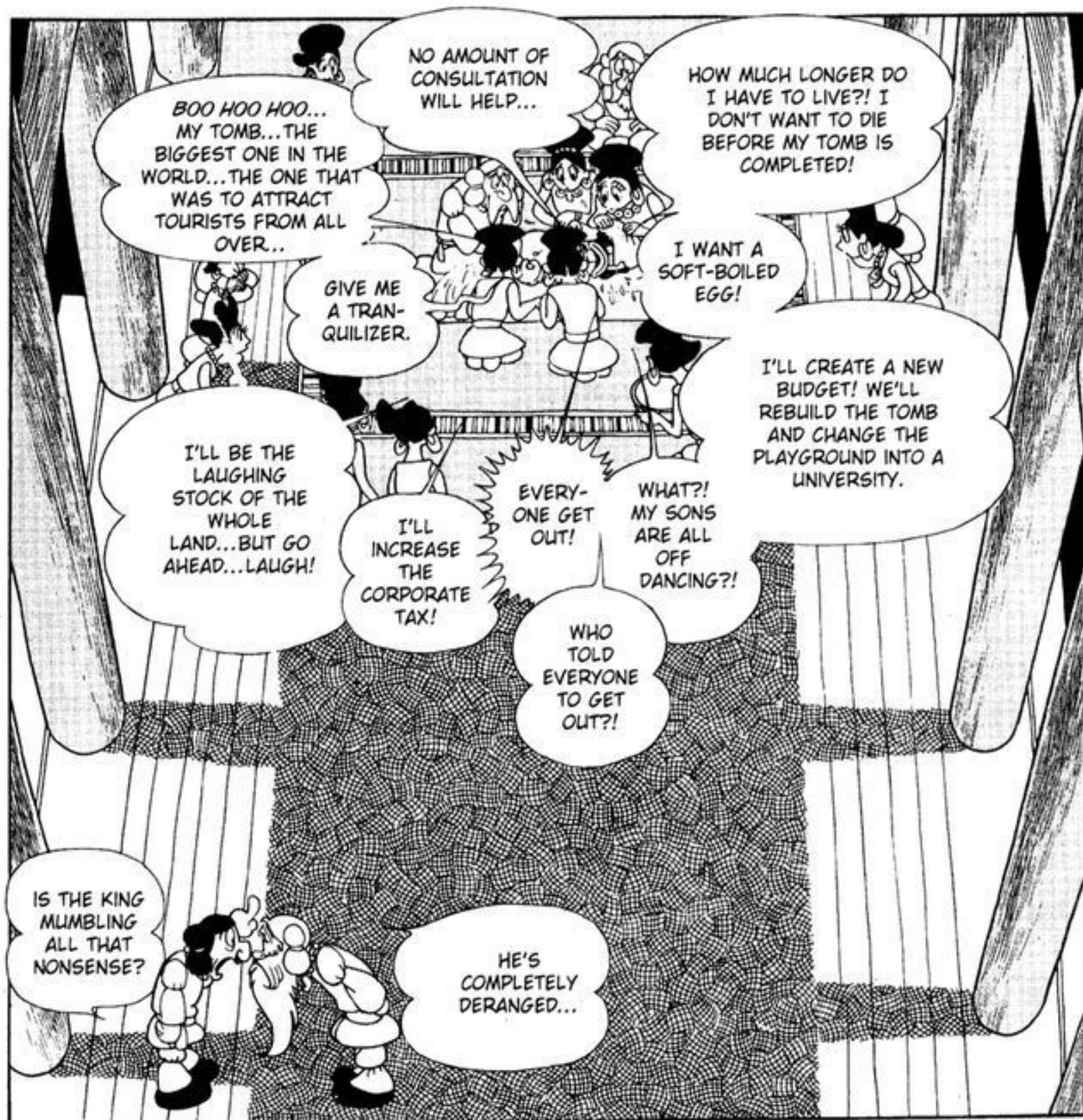




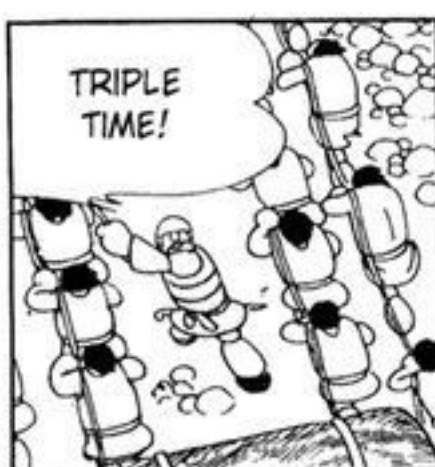




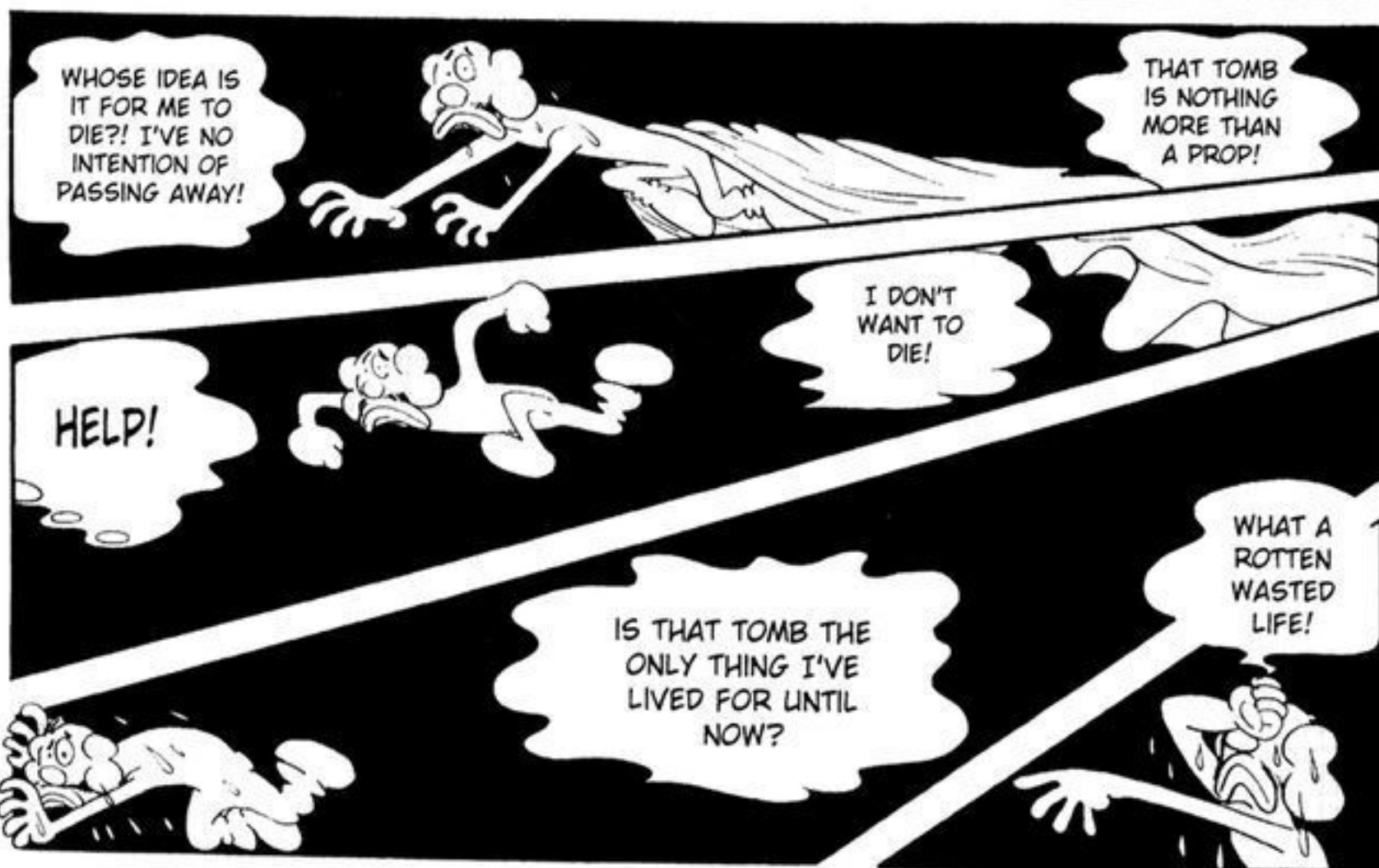
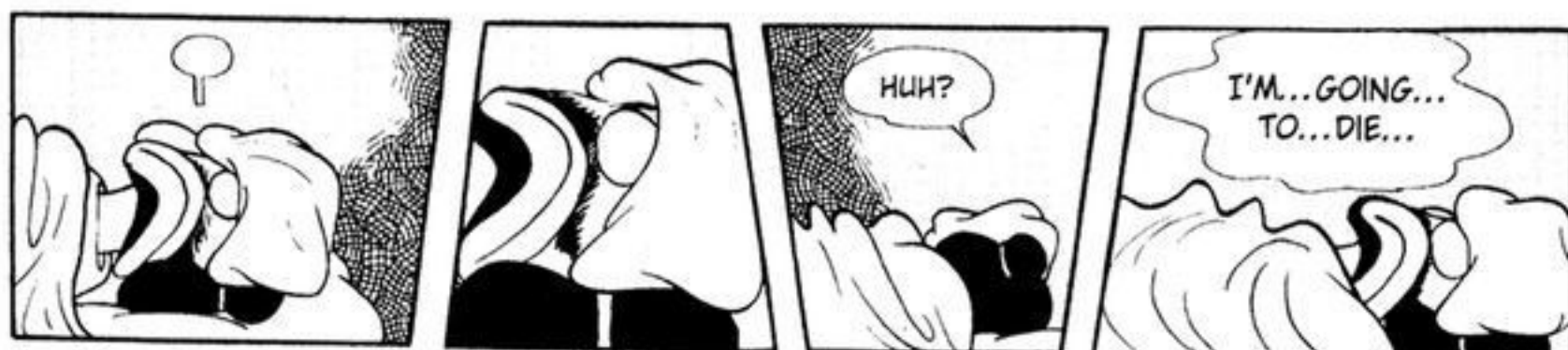
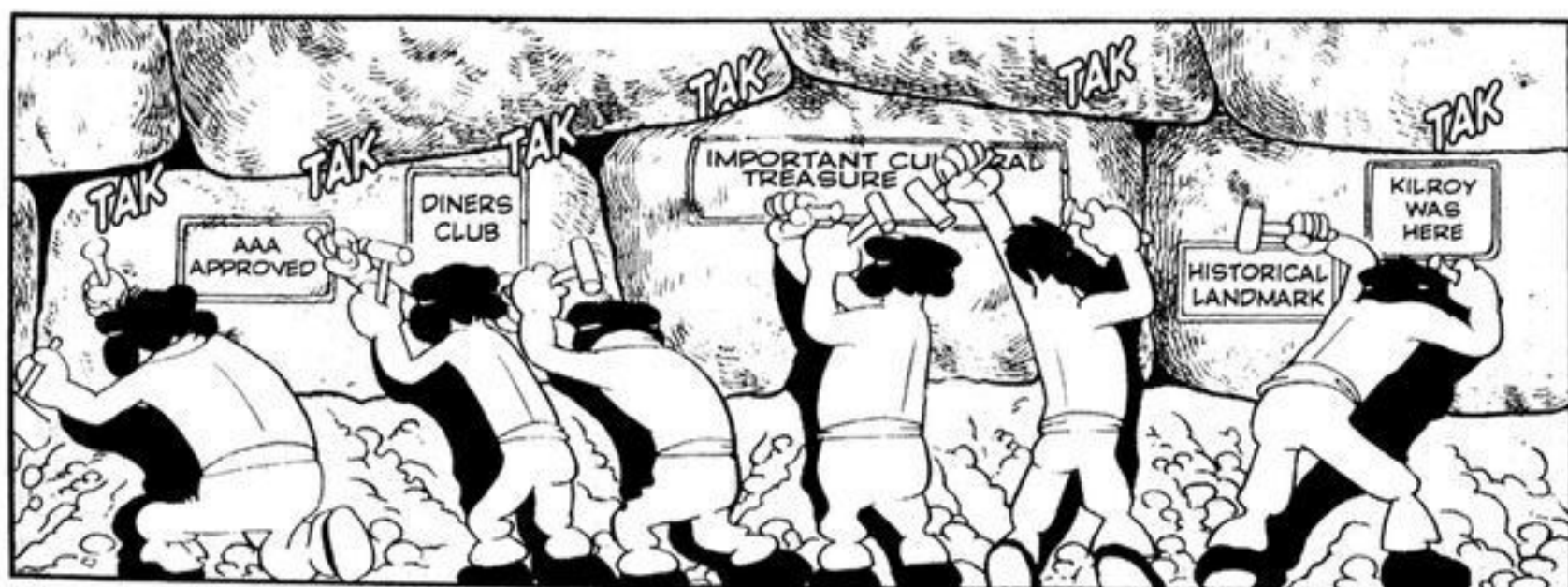
















A  
STUPID  
WASTE.



MORE...

I  
WANTED...

TO DO  
SOMETHING  
MORE  
SIGNIFI-  
CANT!



I WANTED  
TO READ YASUNARI  
KAWABATA...  
SEE *GONE WITH THE  
WIND*...  
DATE MORE GIRLS...  
LEARN TO DRIVE...  
PLAY BRIDGE...  
LEARN TO DRINK  
WHITE LIGHTNING...



I SHOULD AT  
LEAST THINK OF  
SOME FAMOUS  
LAST WORDS...

WHAT CAN I  
LEAVE THE  
WORLD....  
..NOTHING!

JUST A  
FEW...

BUT TO DO  
THAT...I'D NEED  
AT LEAST A  
HIGH SCHOOL  
DIPLOMA...

AH...I'VE  
THOUGHT OF  
SOMETHING TO  
SAY...



ONLY DEATH  
CURES  
FOOLS...

POOF



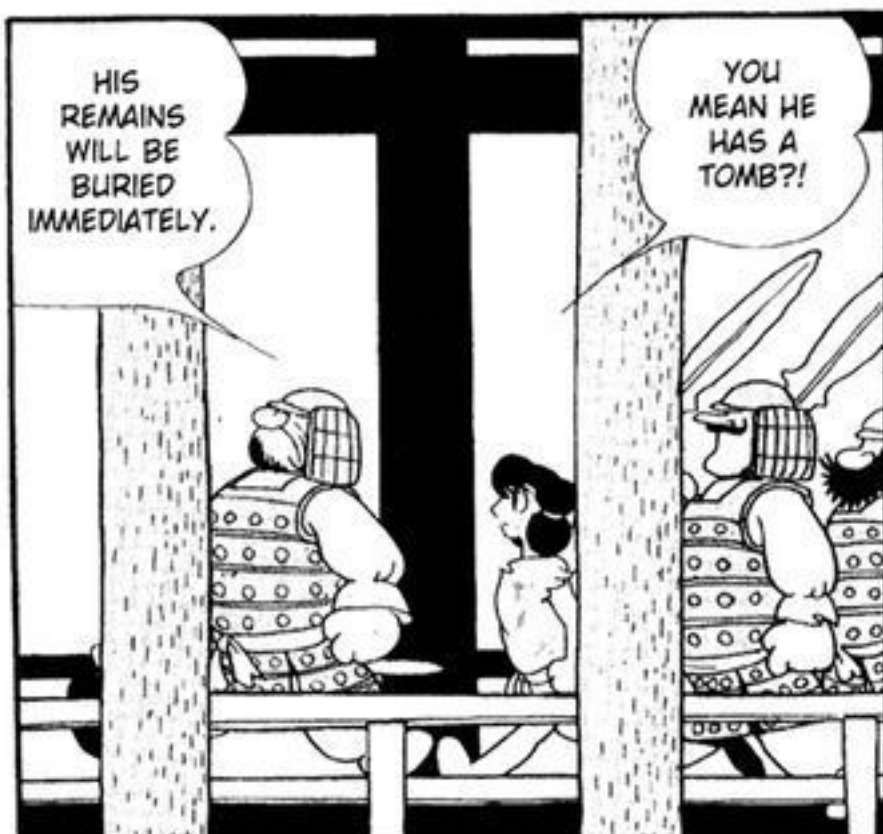
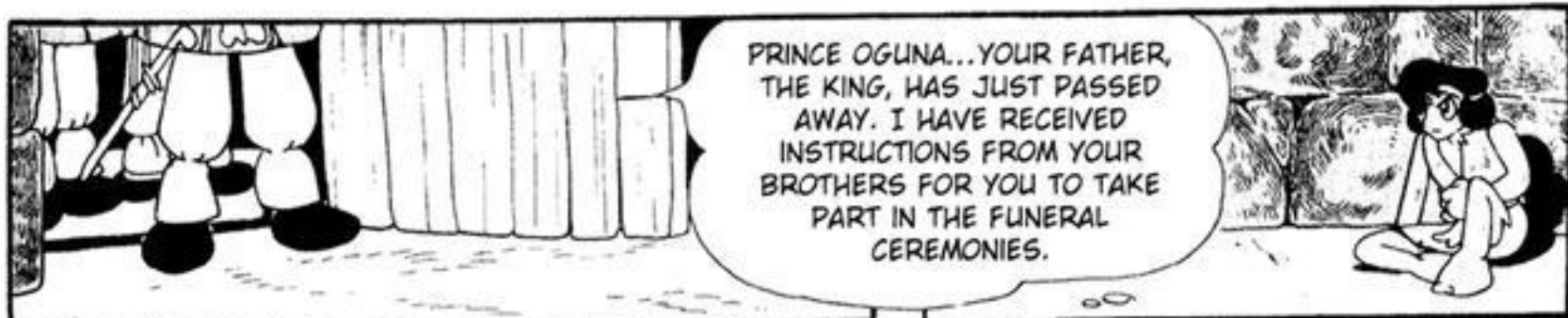
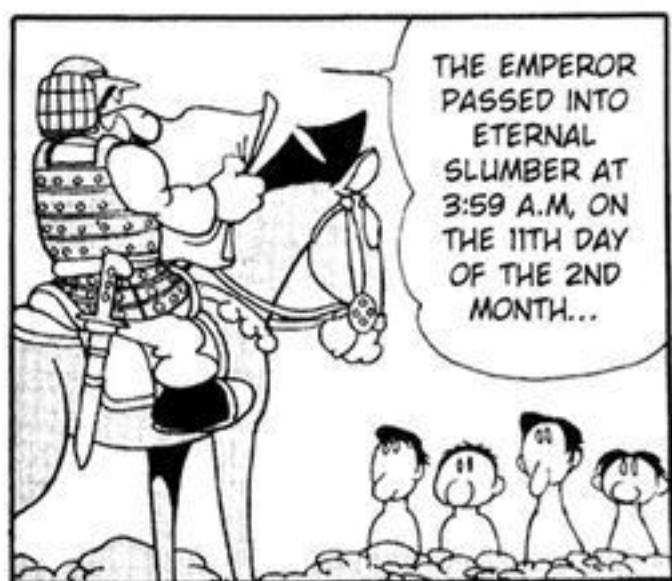
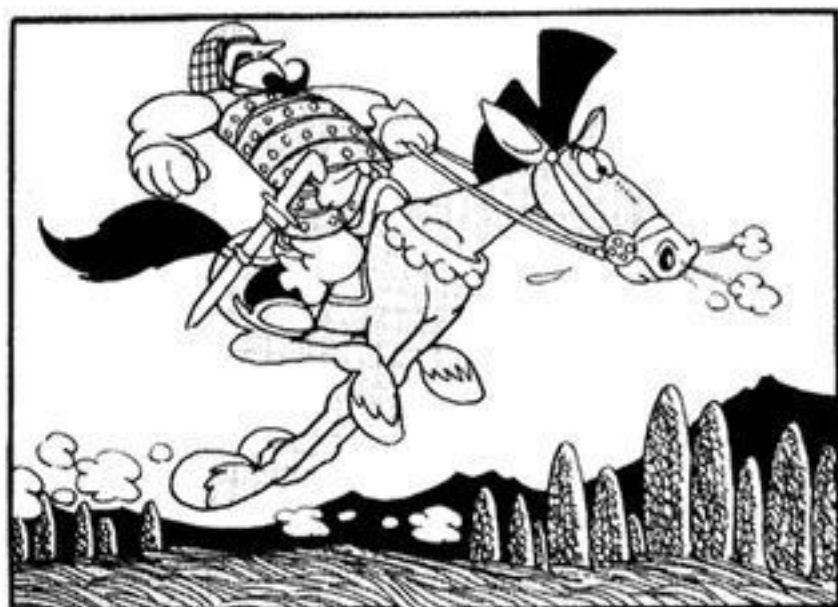
BUT I  
HAVE TO  
DIE!

BOO  
HOO

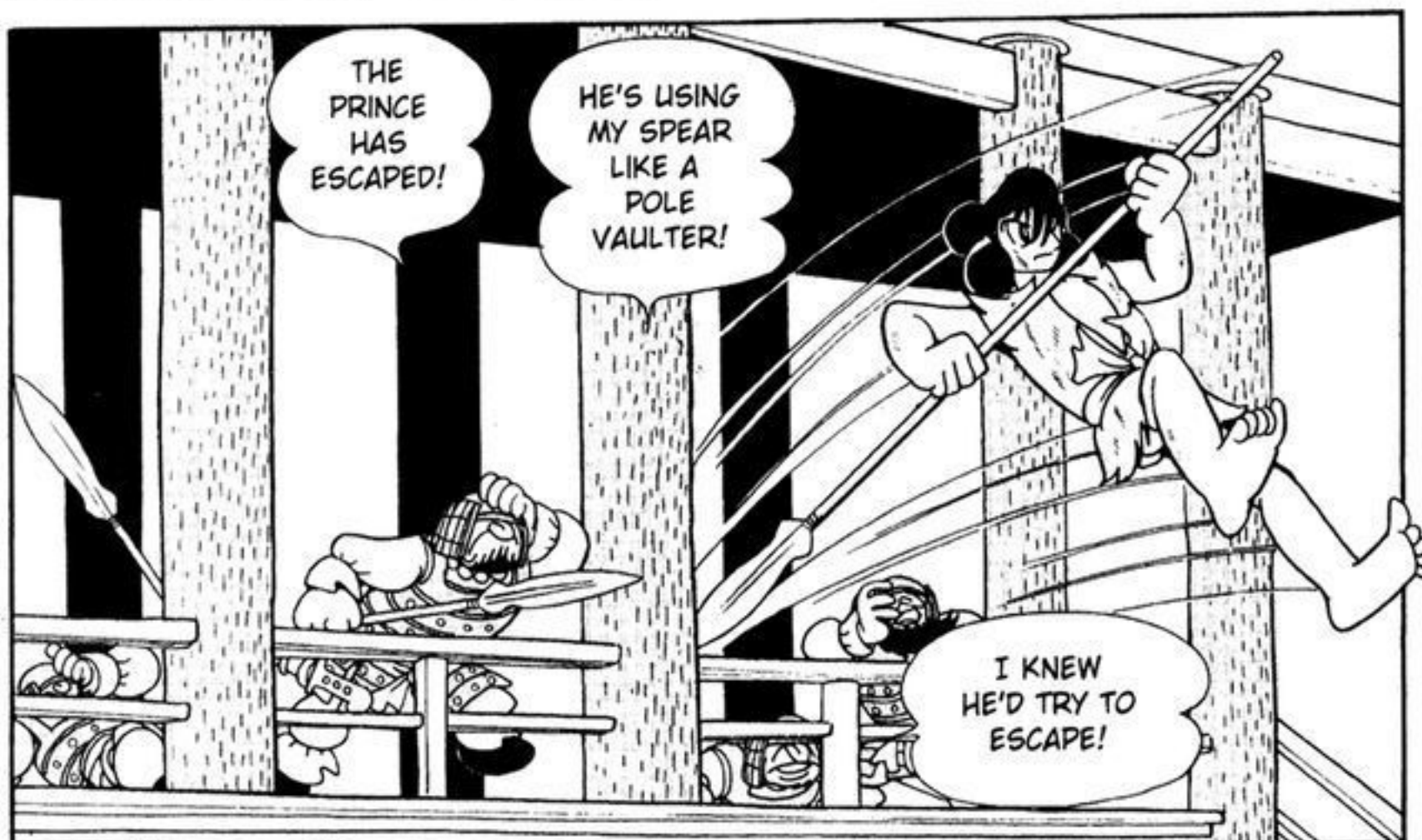
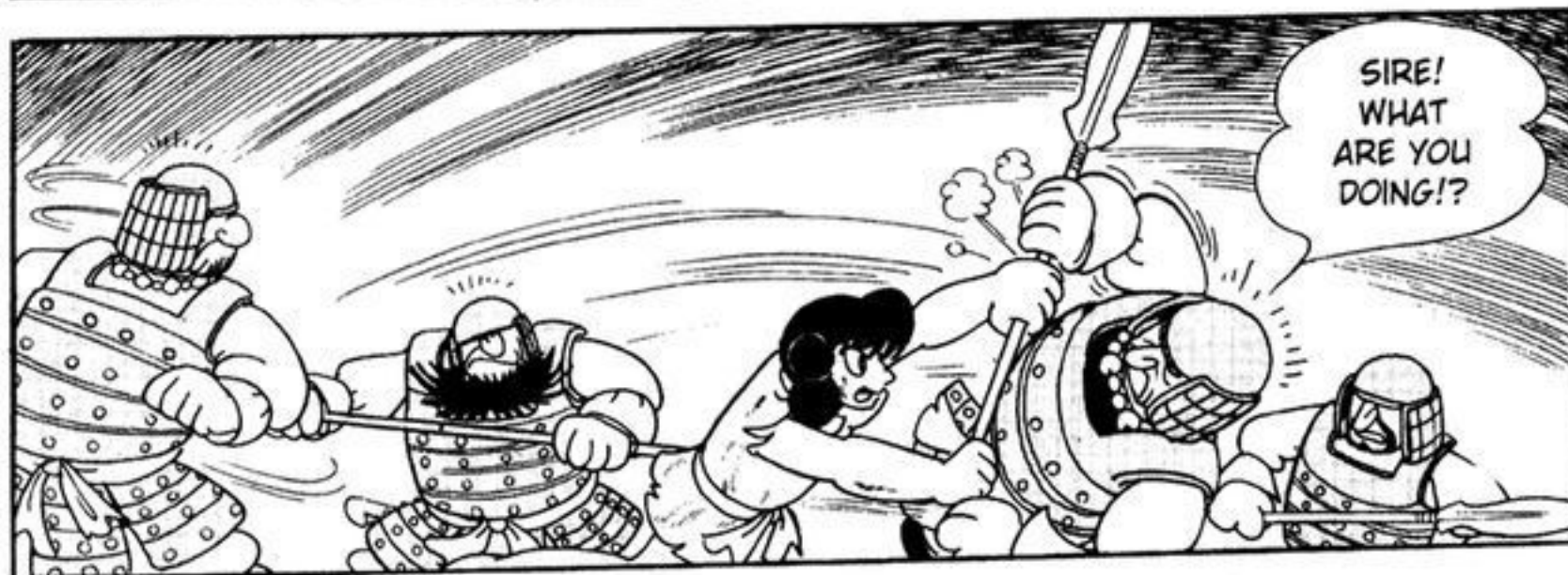
IT'S  
ALL  
OVER...

BOO  
HOO

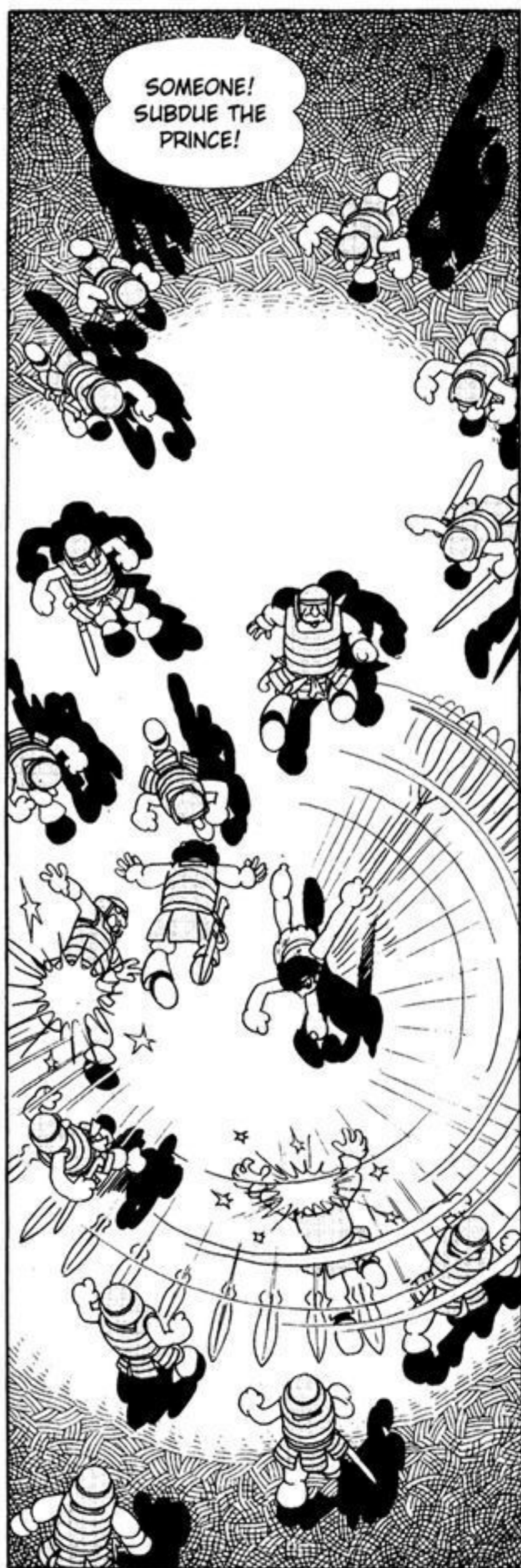




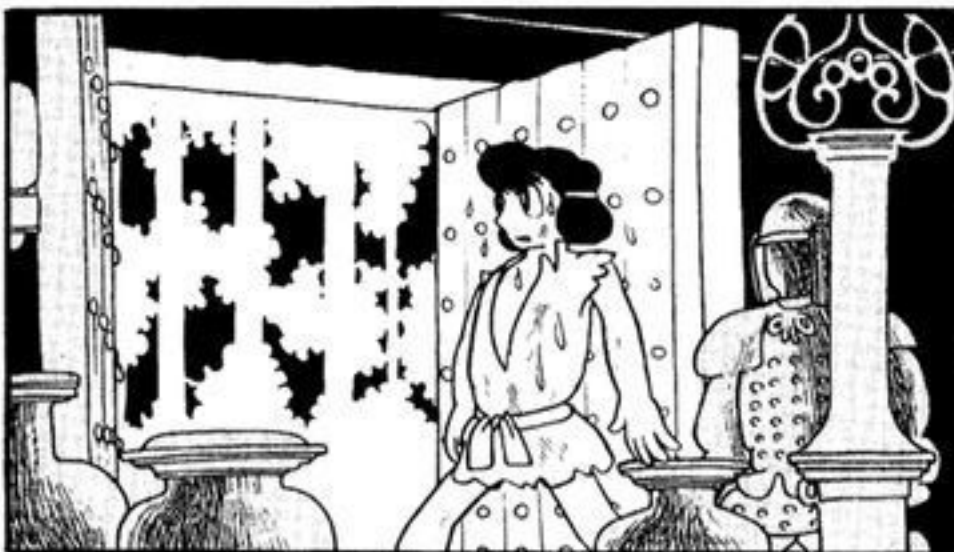
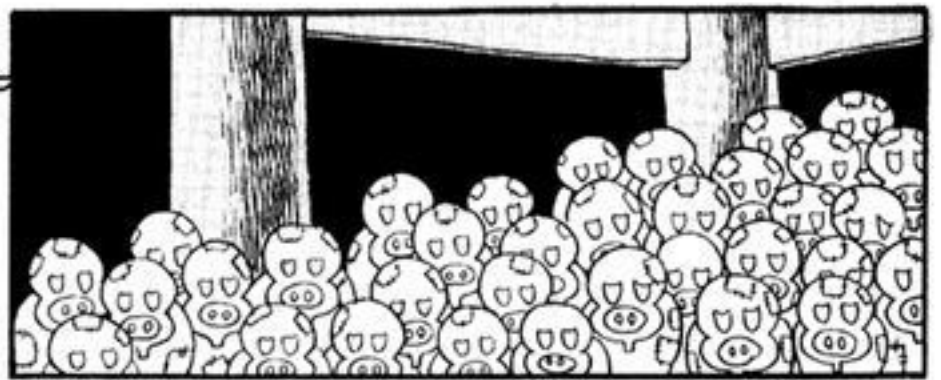




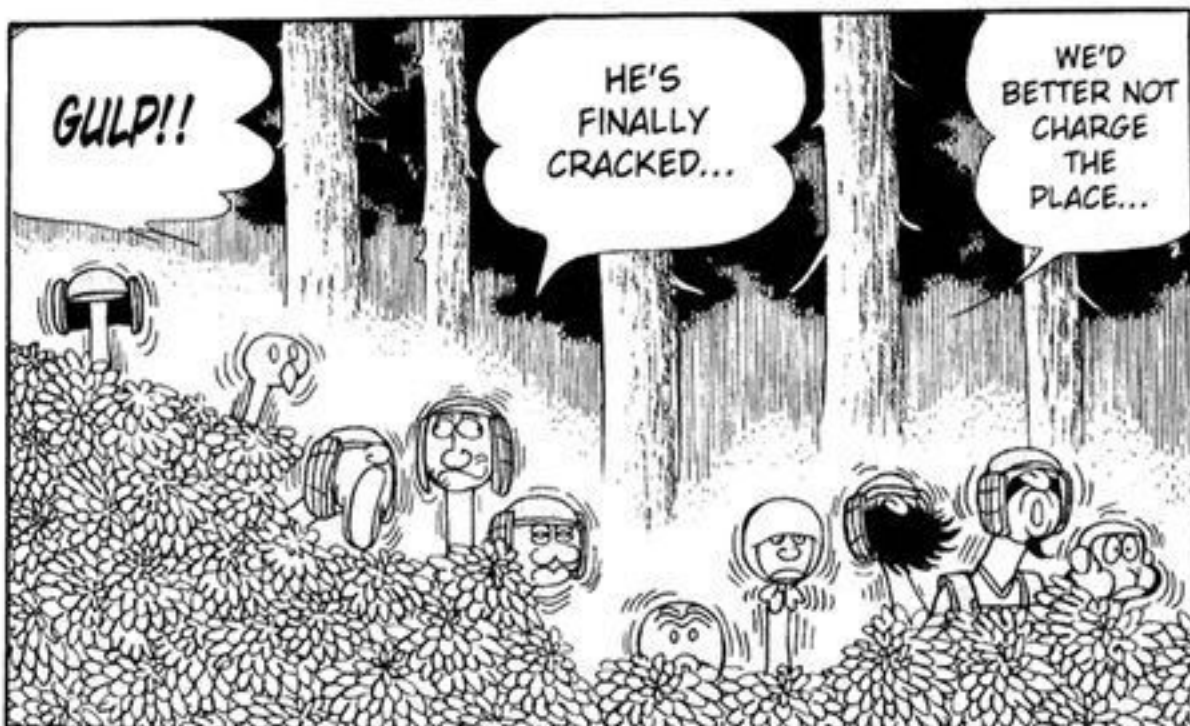
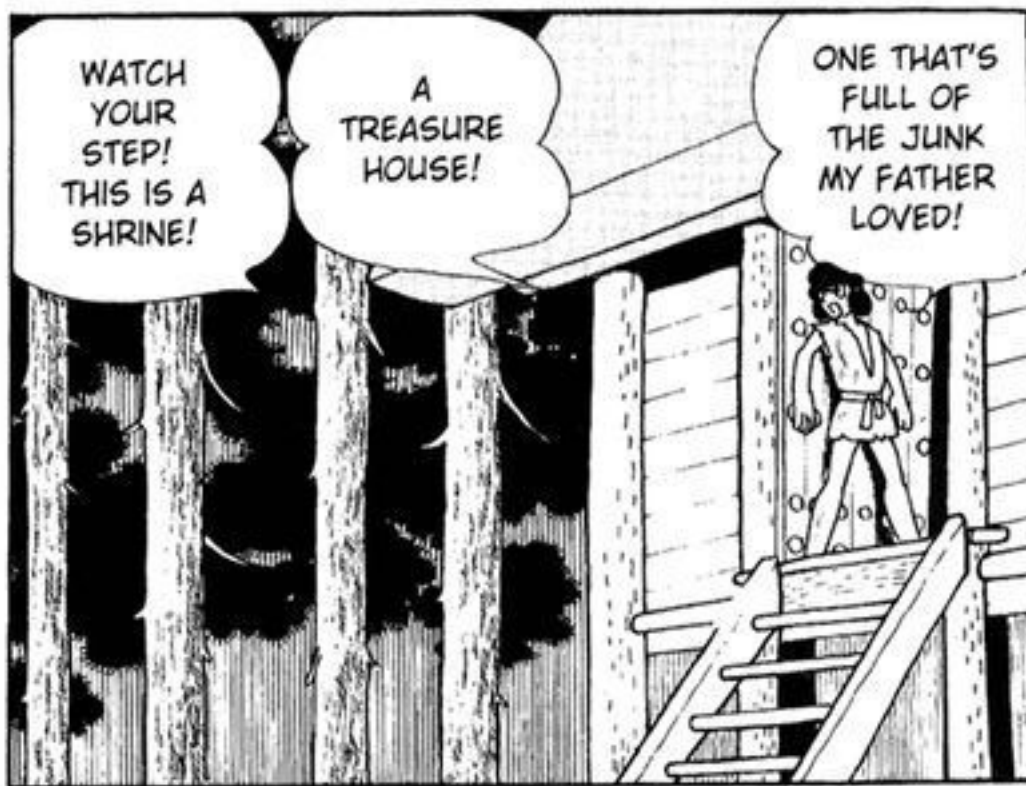
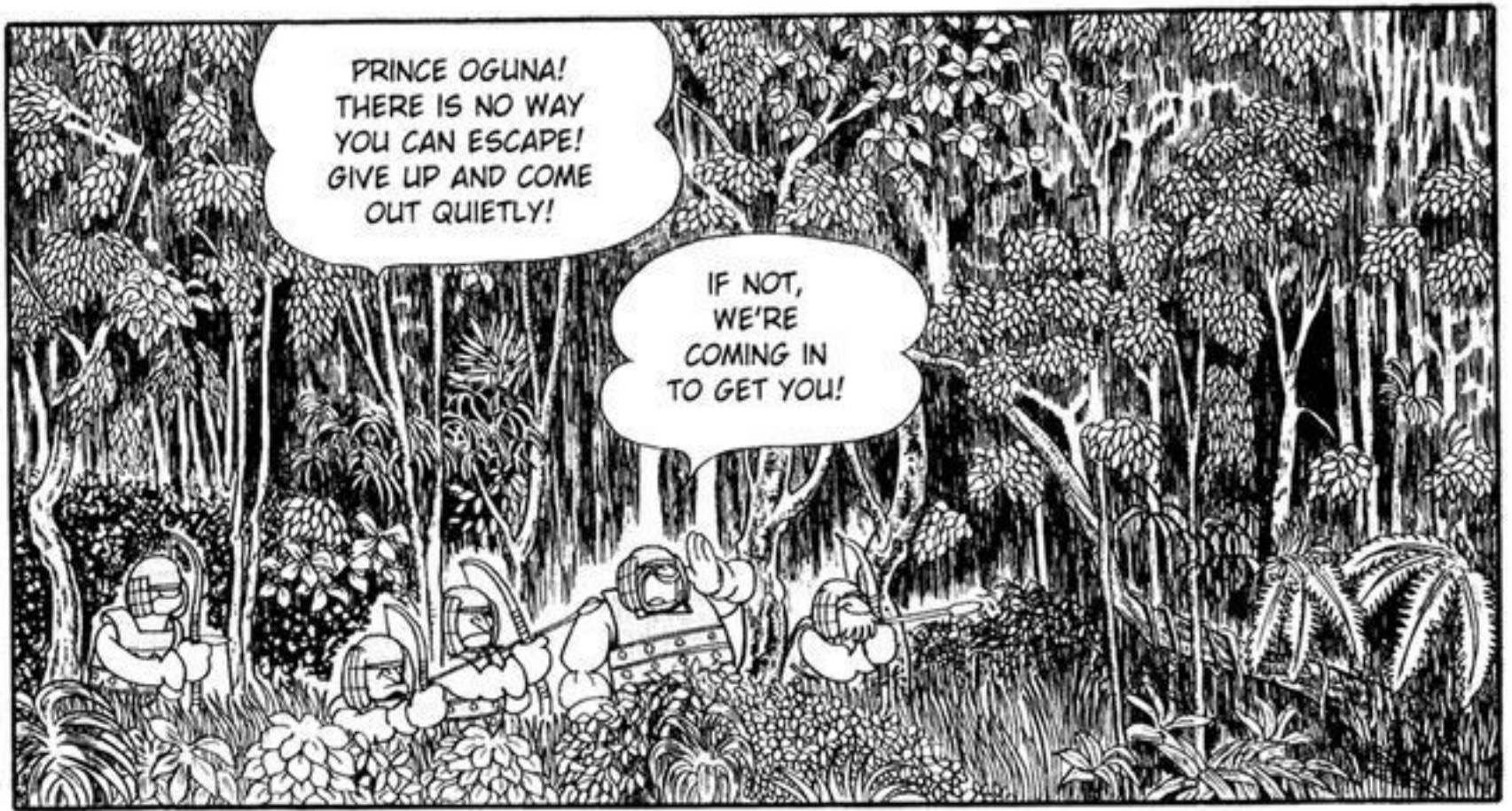




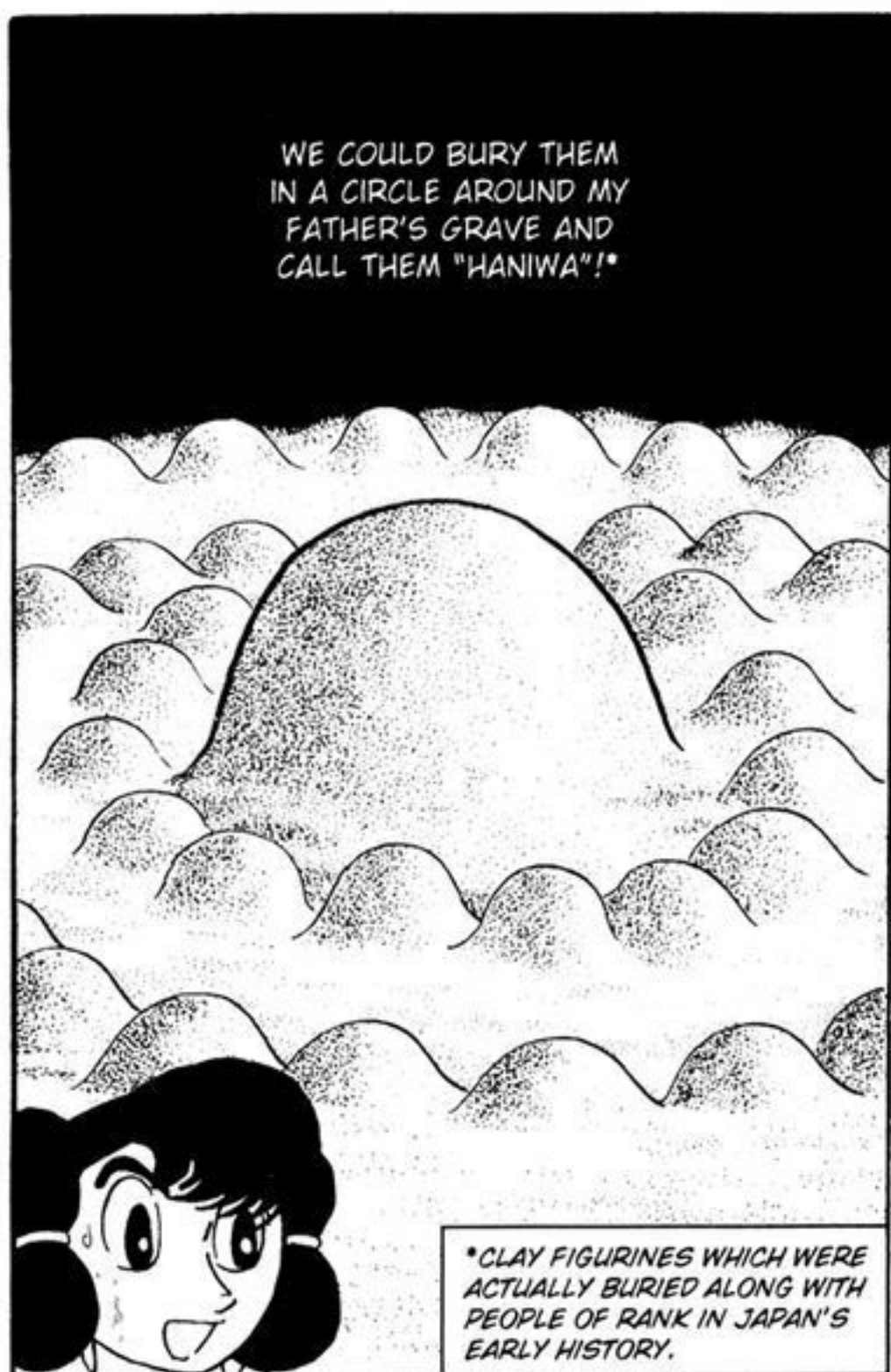
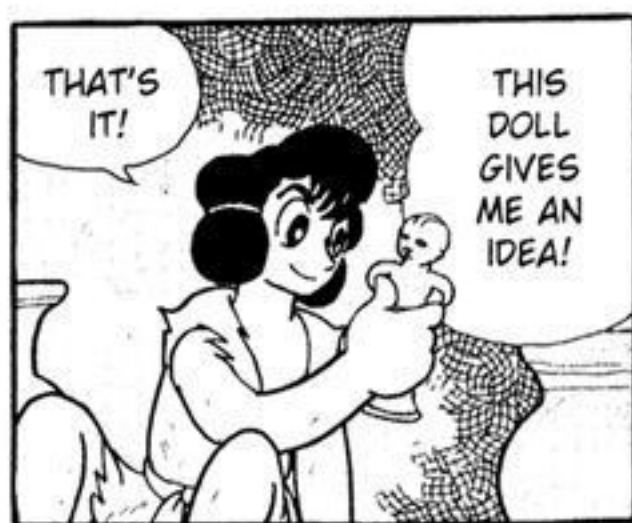
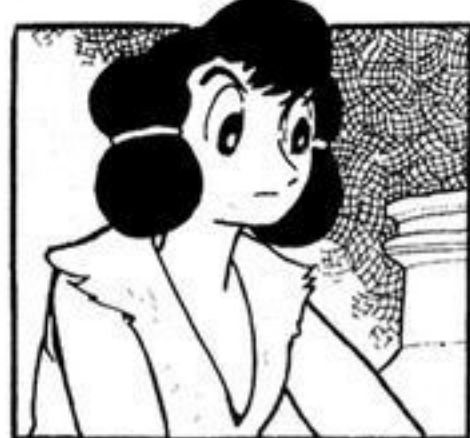




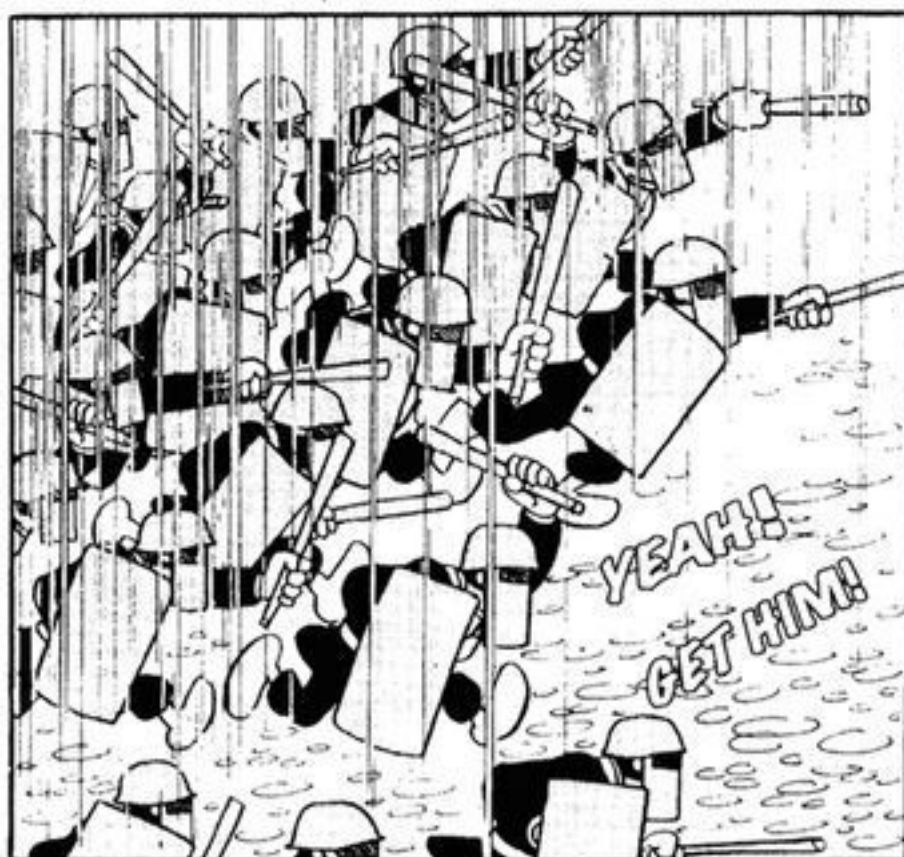
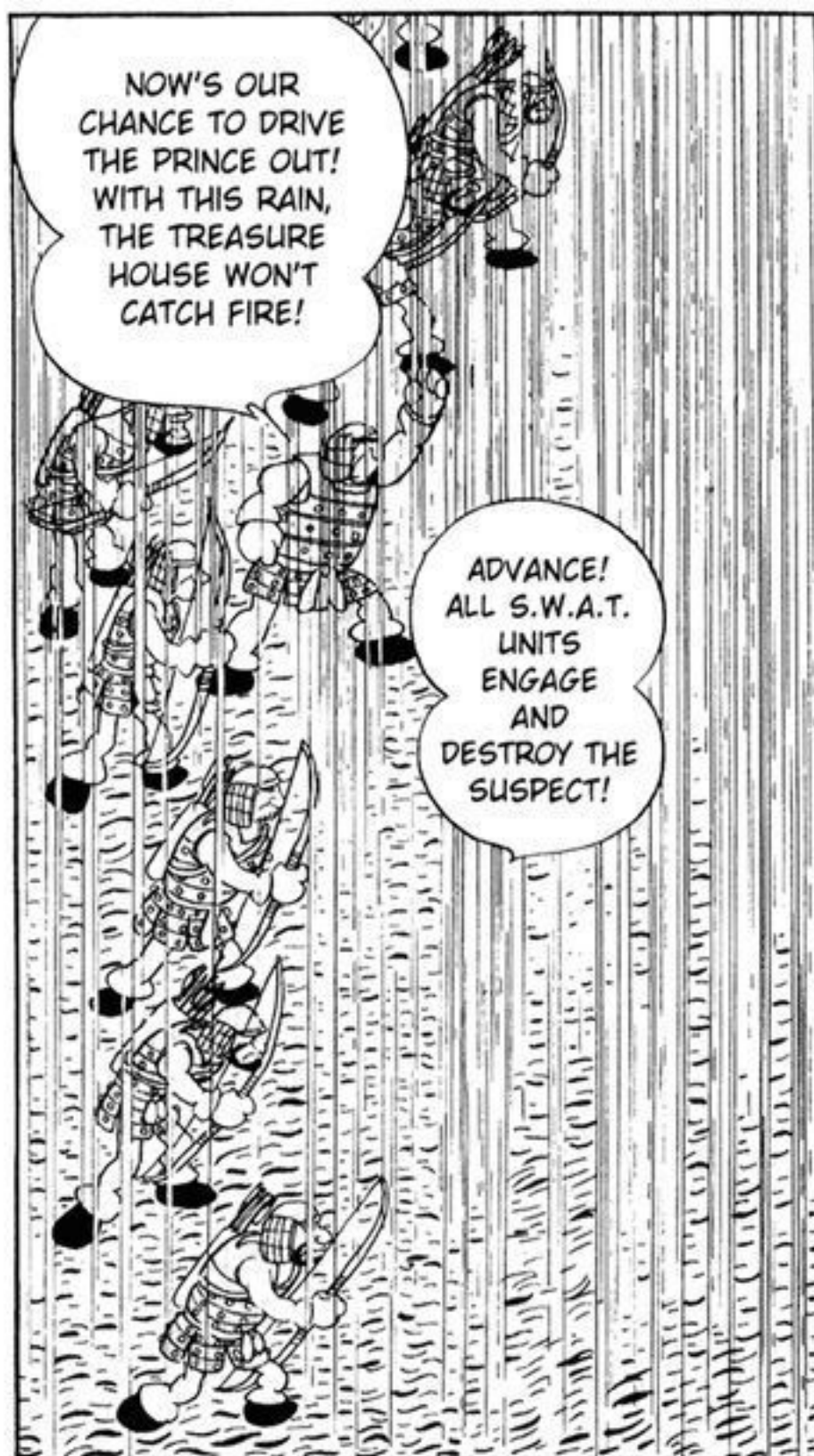
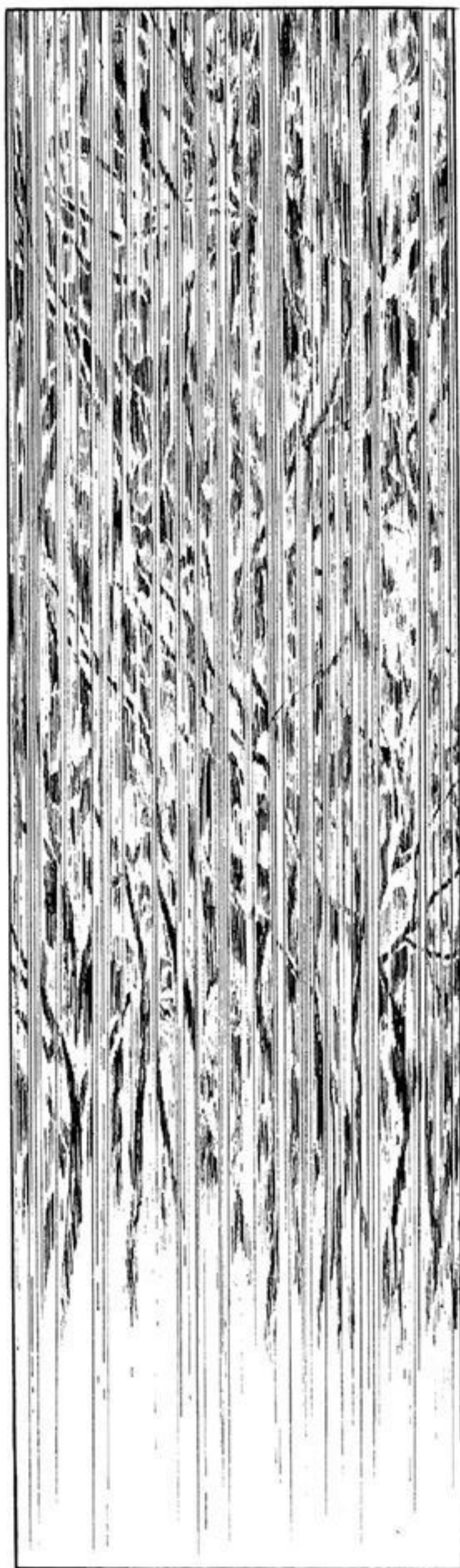




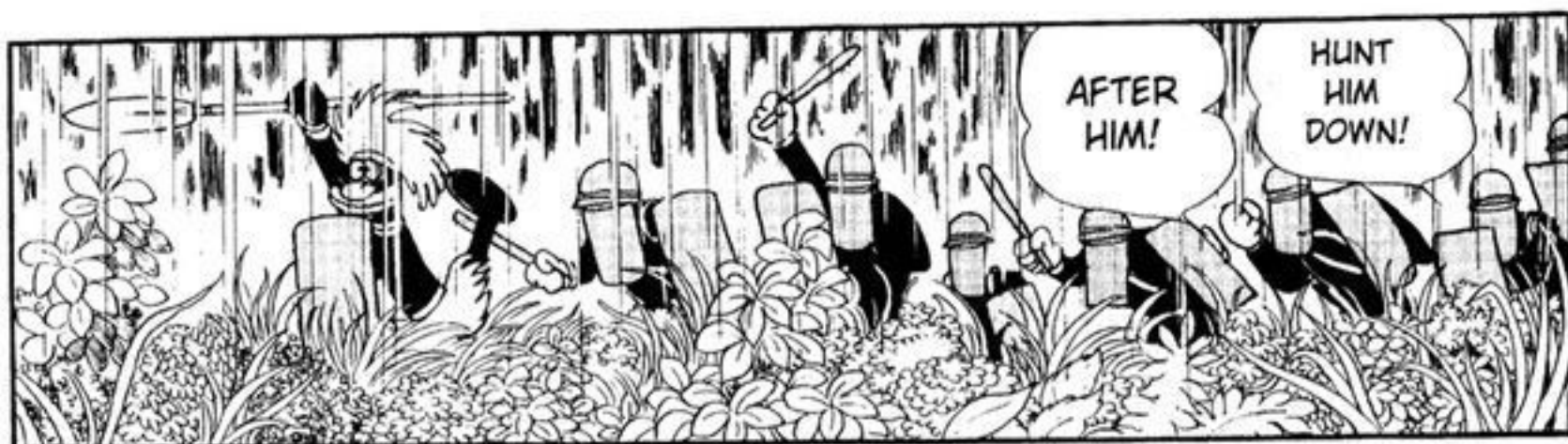
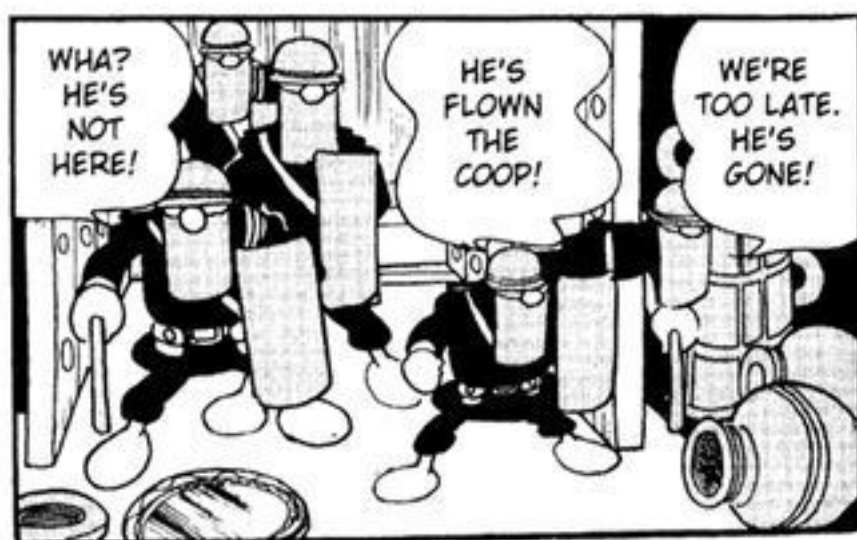








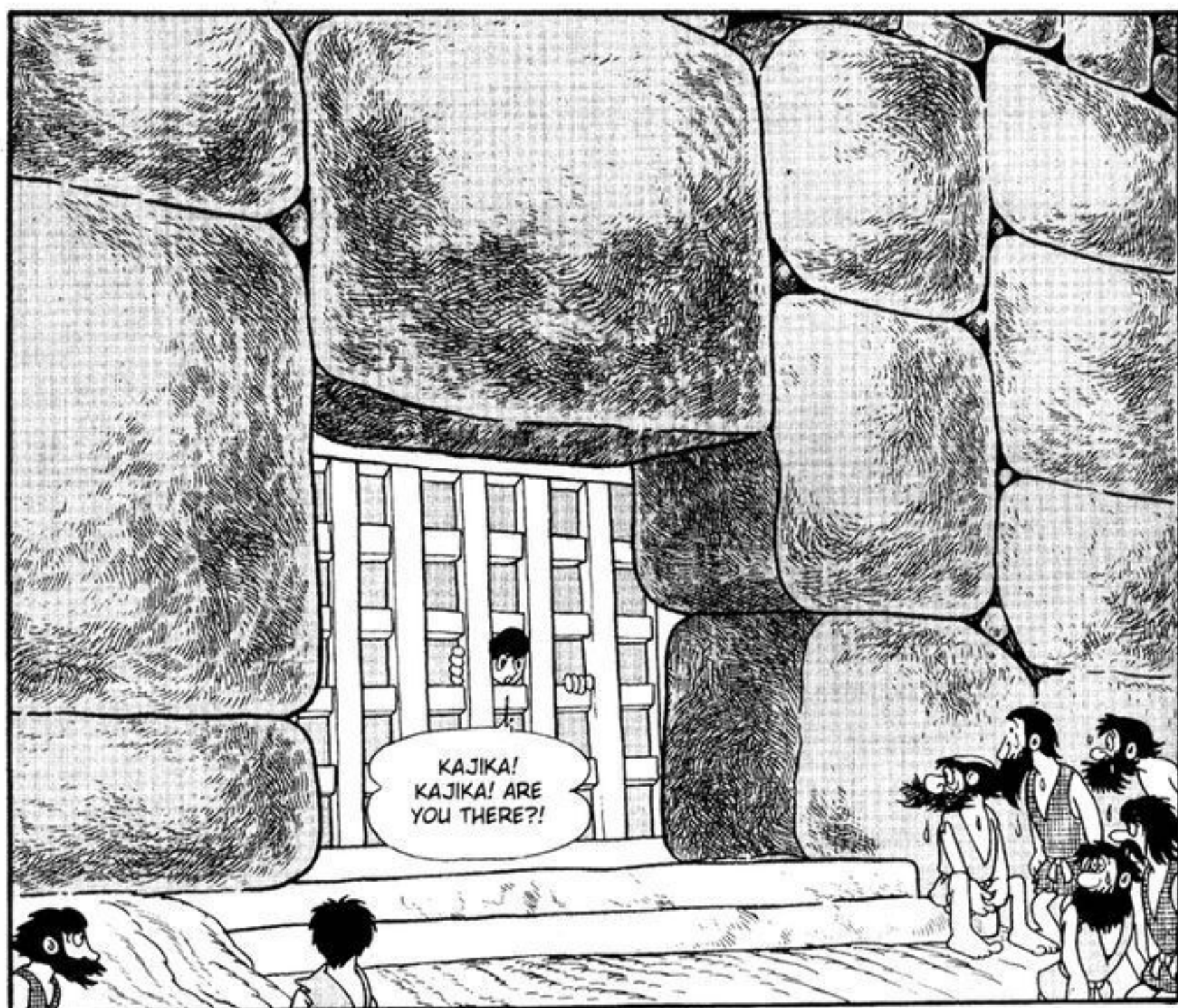




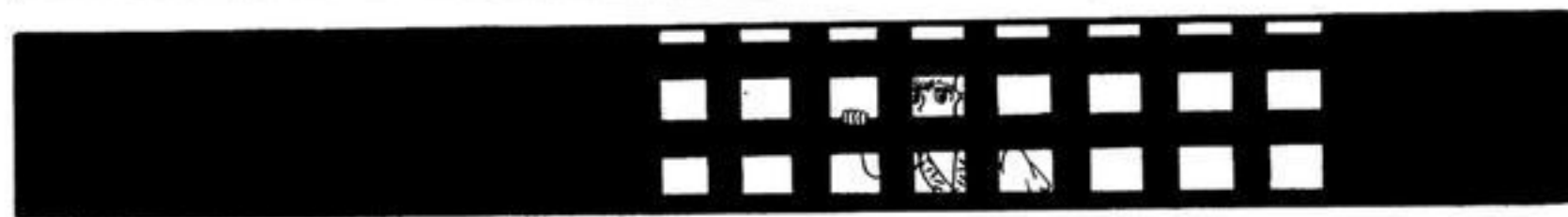




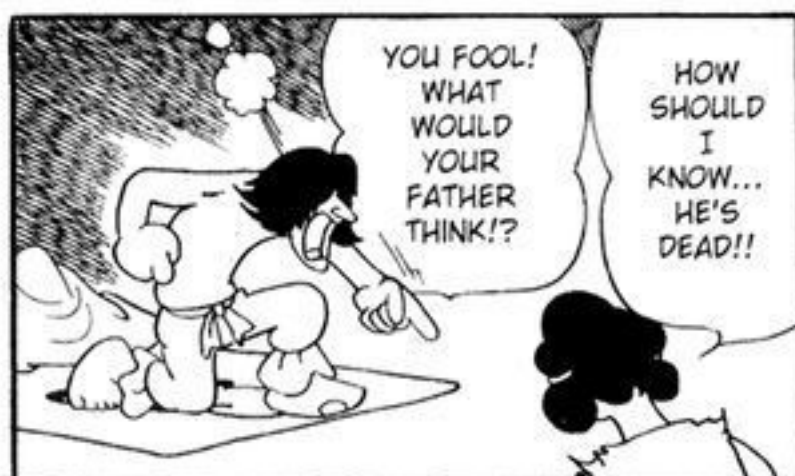
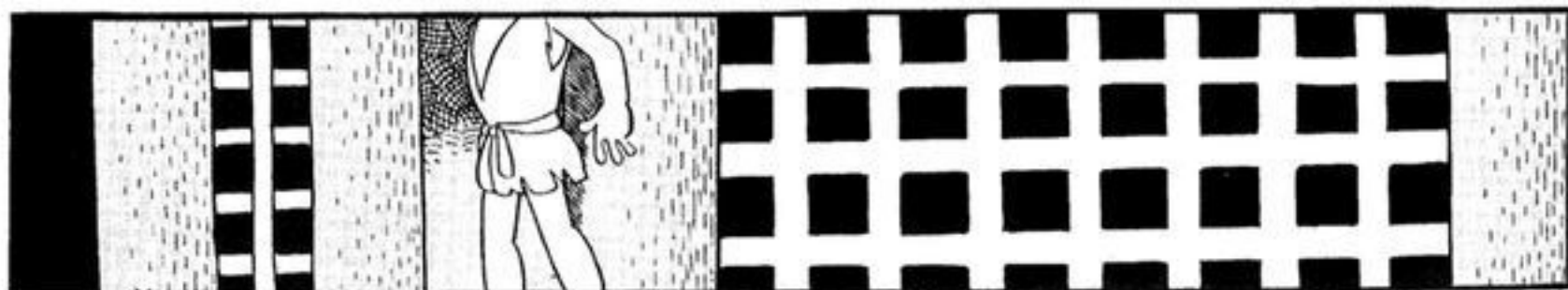
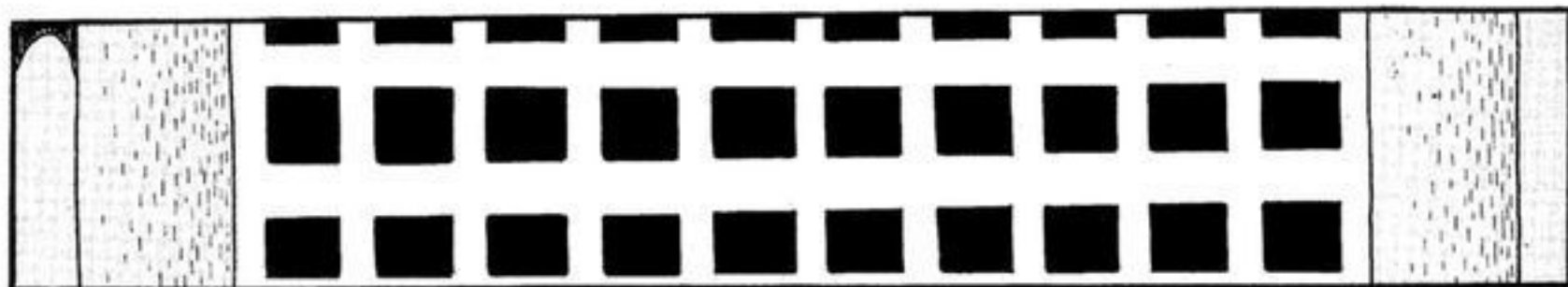




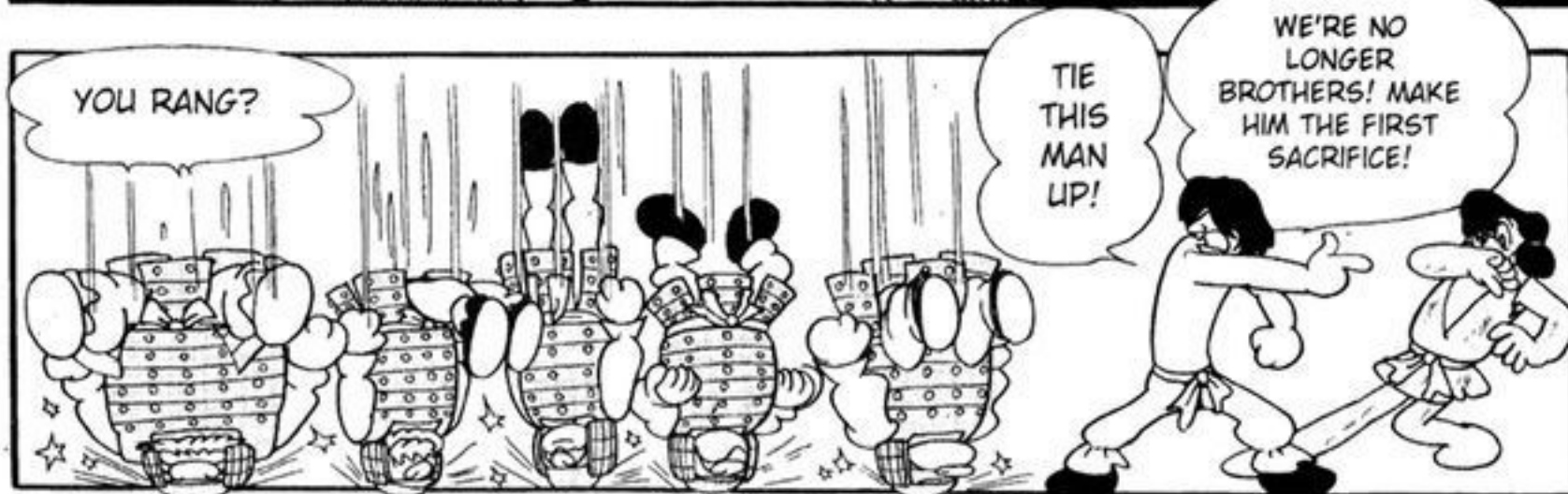
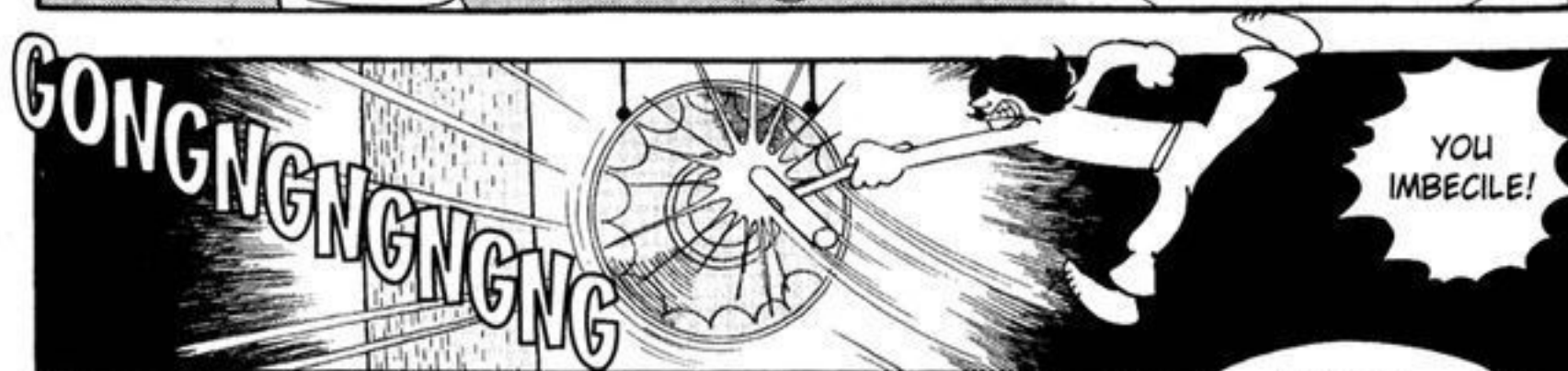
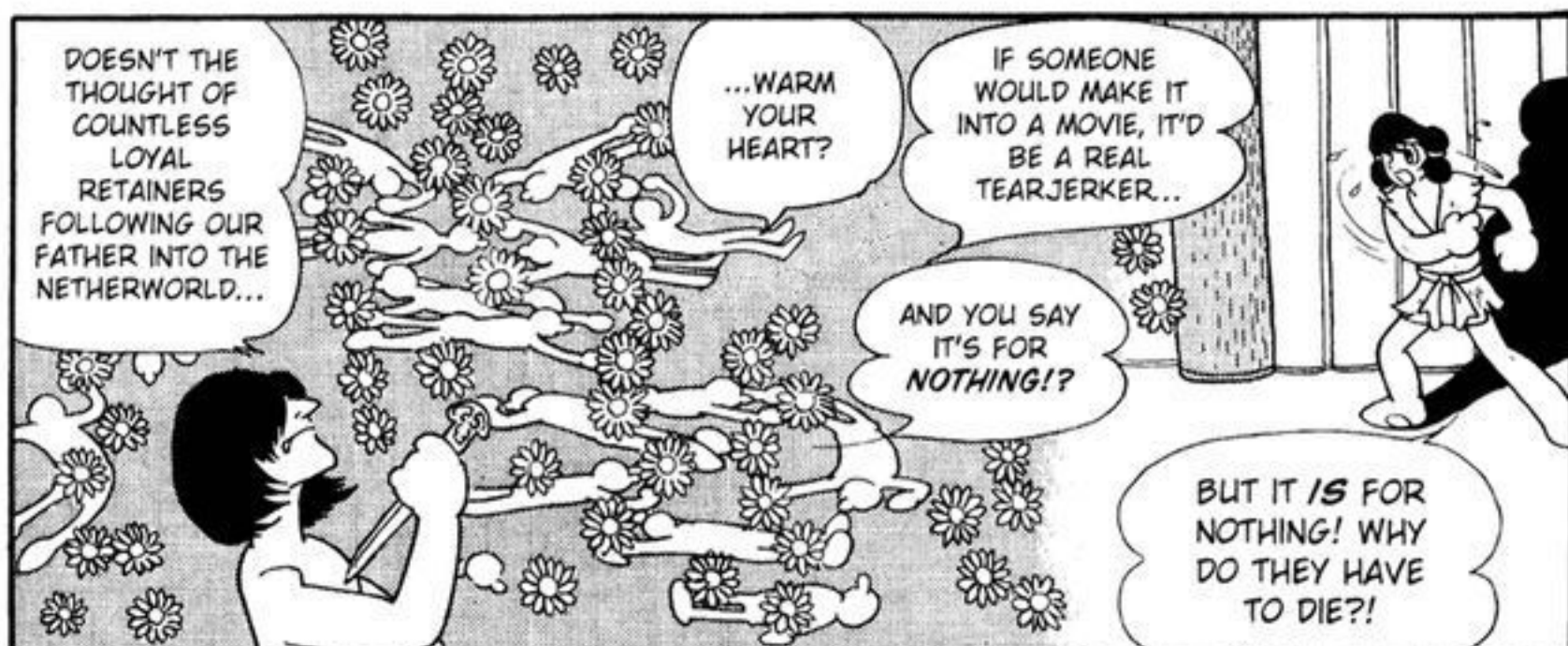
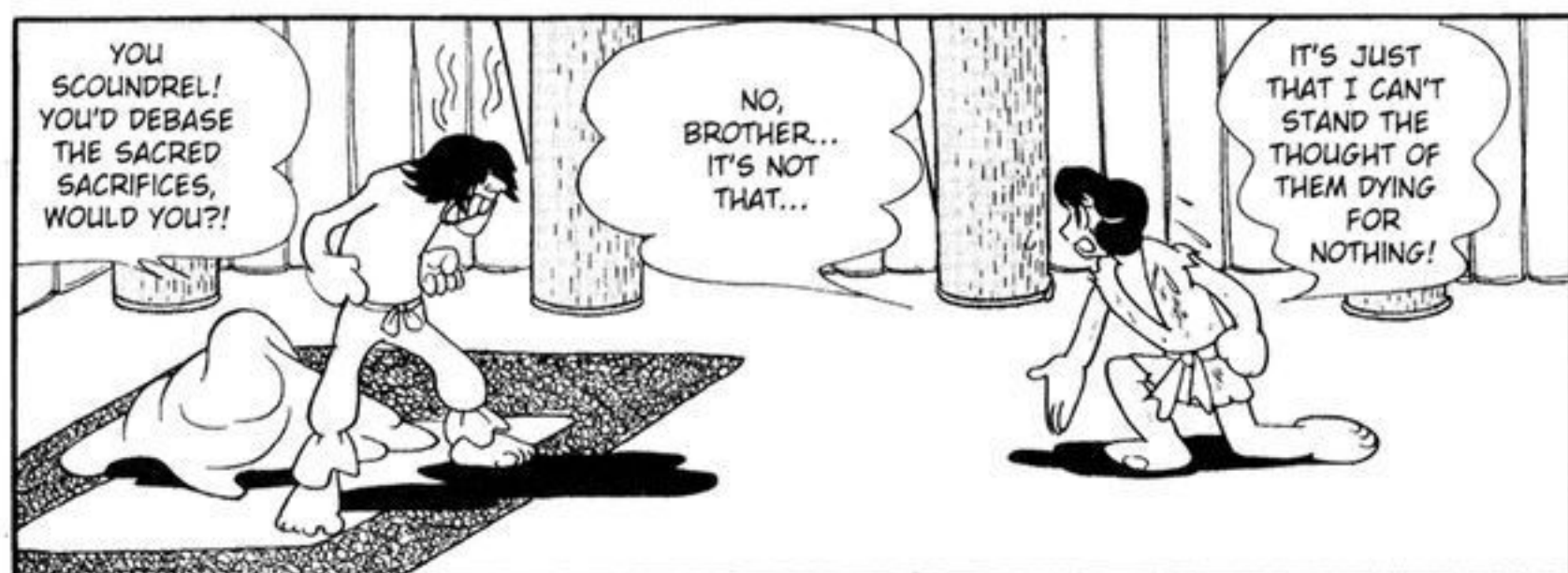








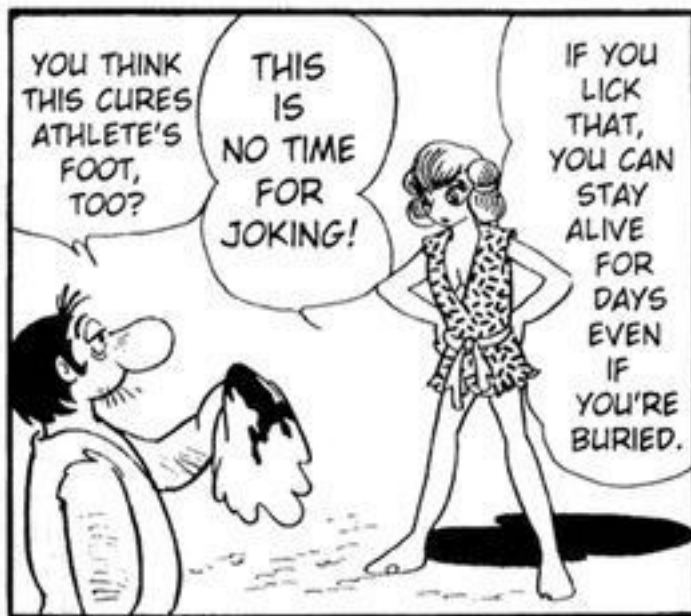




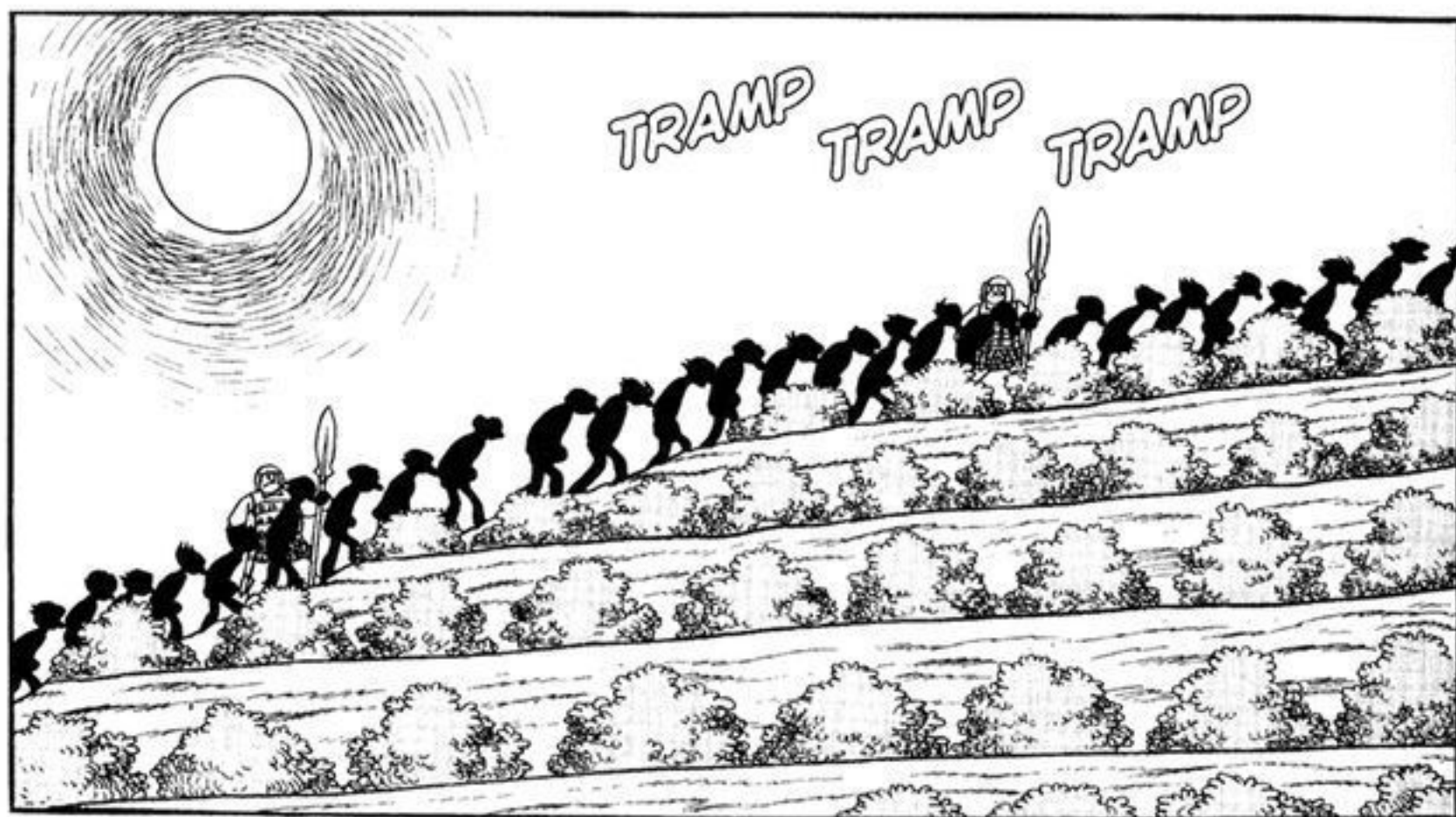




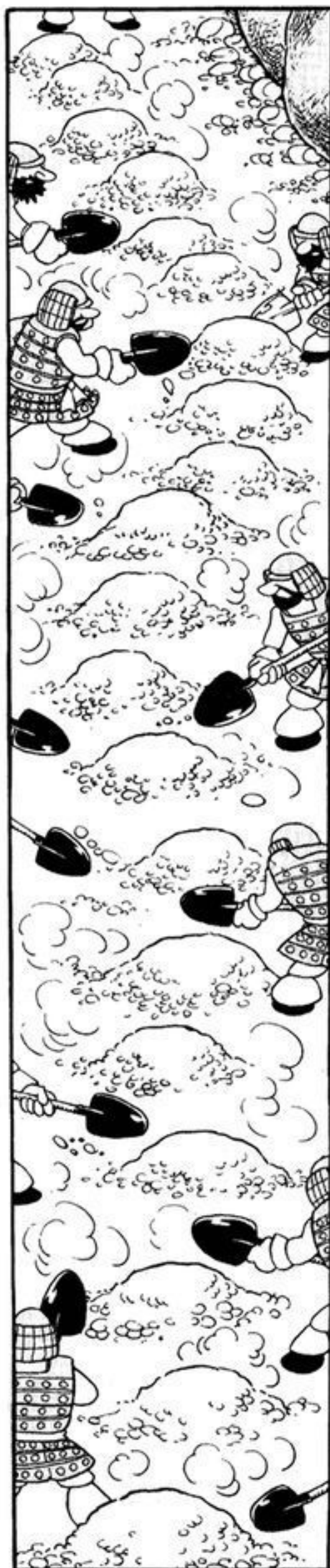




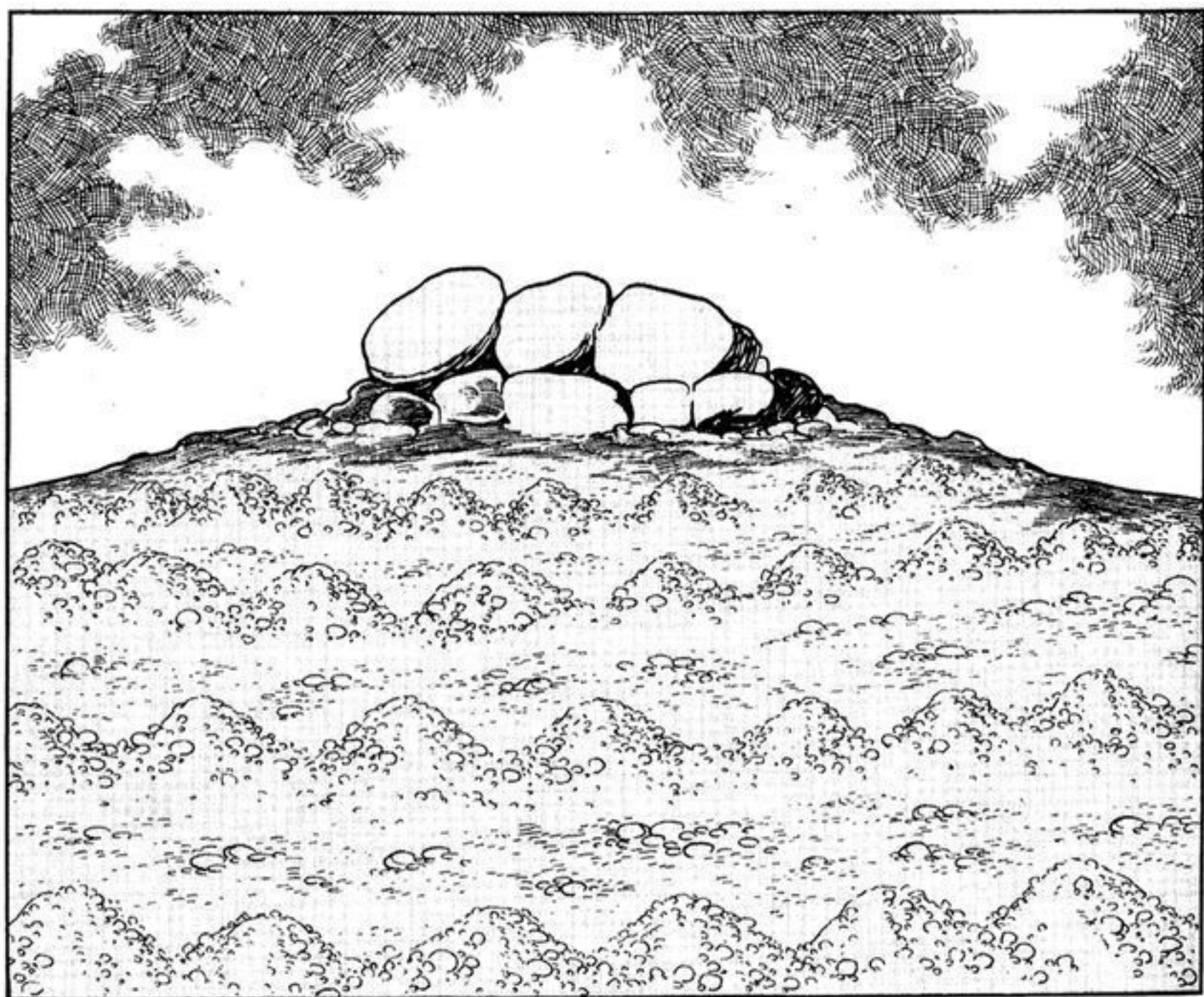




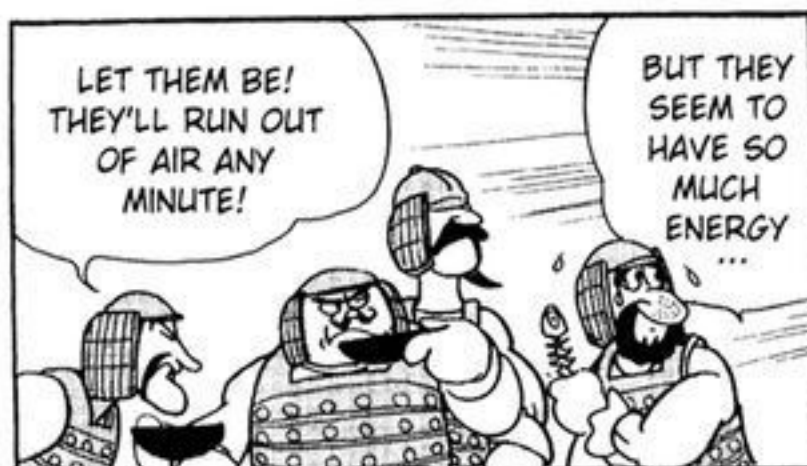




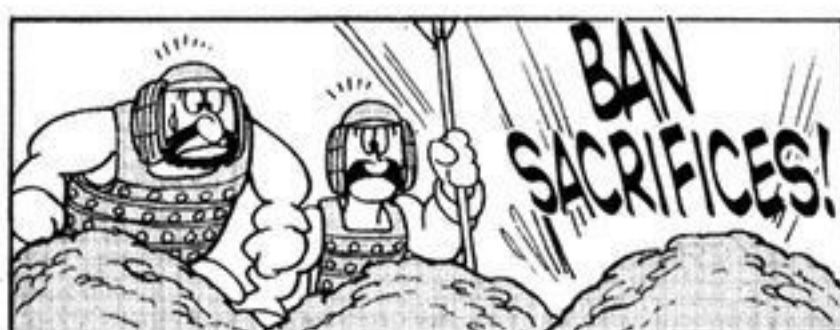




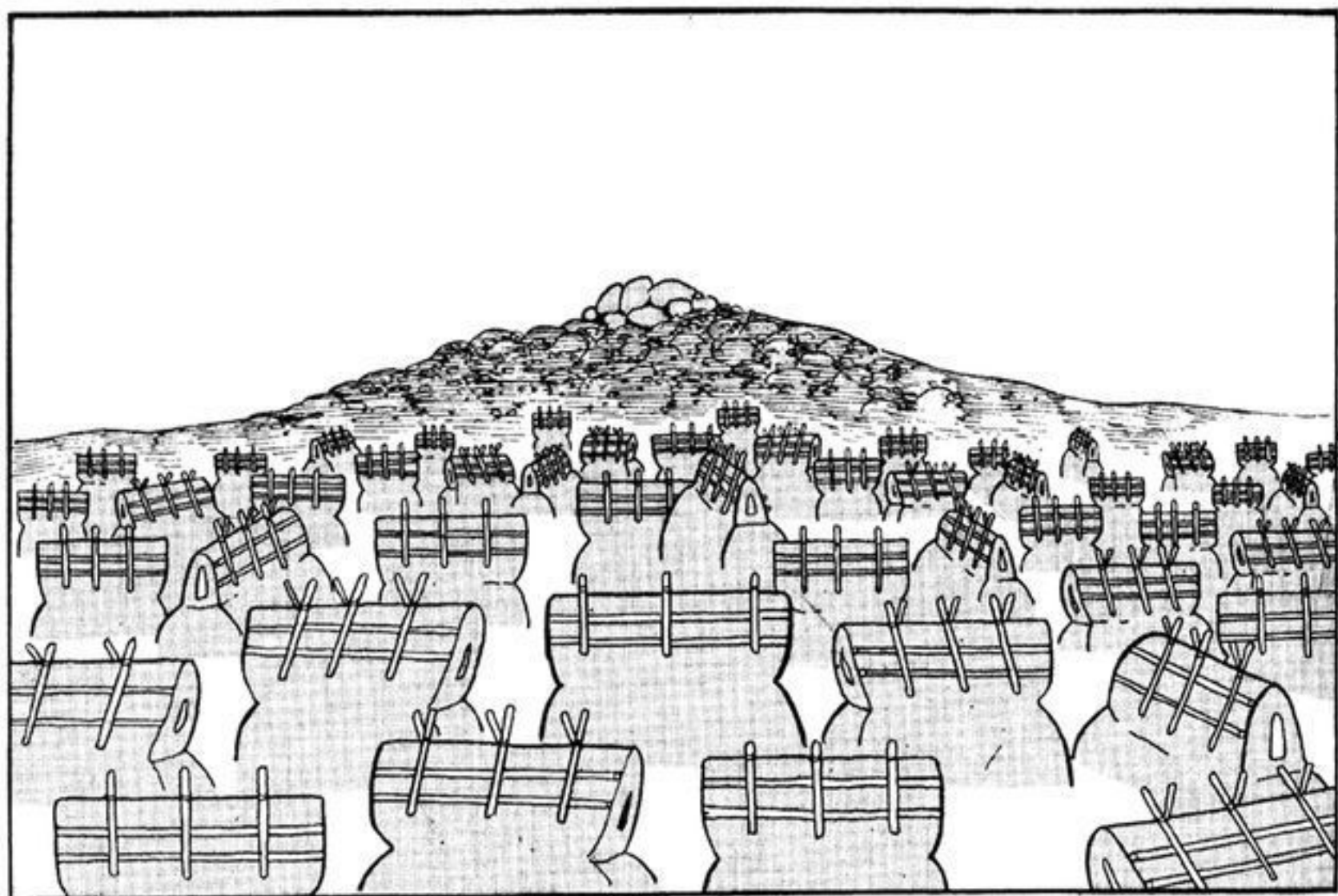




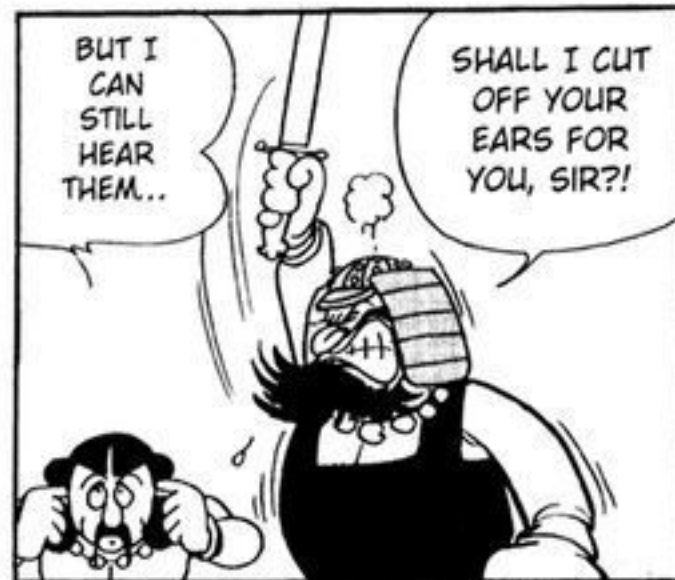
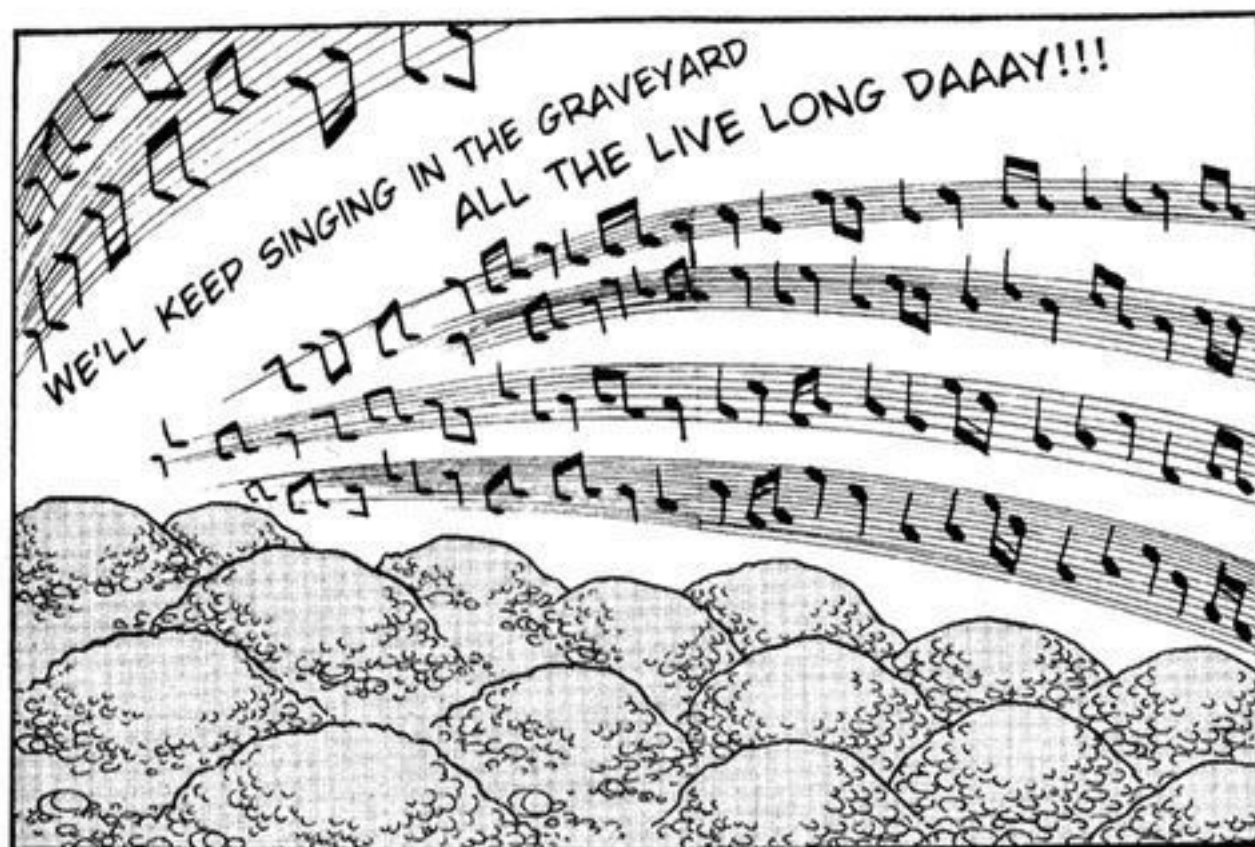
BUT THEY SEEM TO HAVE SO MUCH ENERGY ...





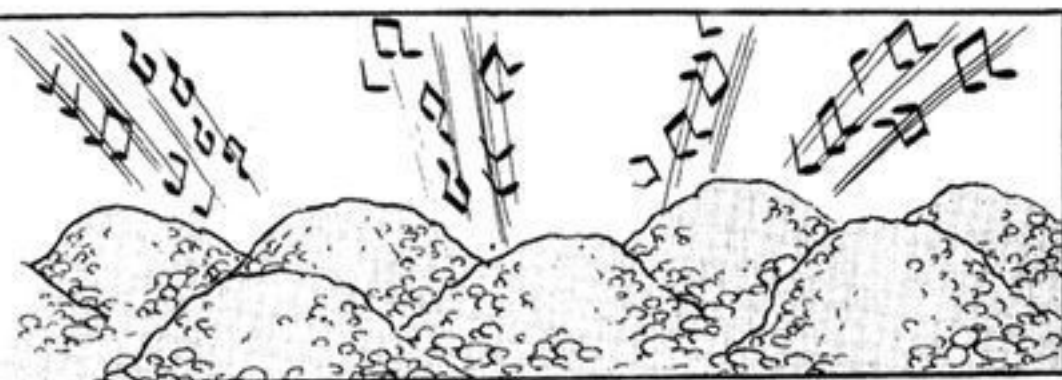








A YEAR PASSED...AS THE EFFECT OF THE PHOENIX'S BLOOD WORE OFF, PEOPLE DIED, ONE BY ONE...BUT THOSE WHO SURVIVED, KEPT ON SINGING.



KAJIKA, WHAT'S THE MATTER?



I FEEL FAINT...THE EFFECT IS WEARING OFF...I THINK I'M GOING TO DIE...



I...I THINK I'M NEARING THE END TOO, KAJIKA.



AREN'T YOU AFRAID, OGUNA?



NO, I'M SATISFIED. I'VE DONE MY BEST, AND I HAVE NO REGRETS.

AND BESIDES... I'M WITH YOU.



KAJIKA, I LOVE YOU!



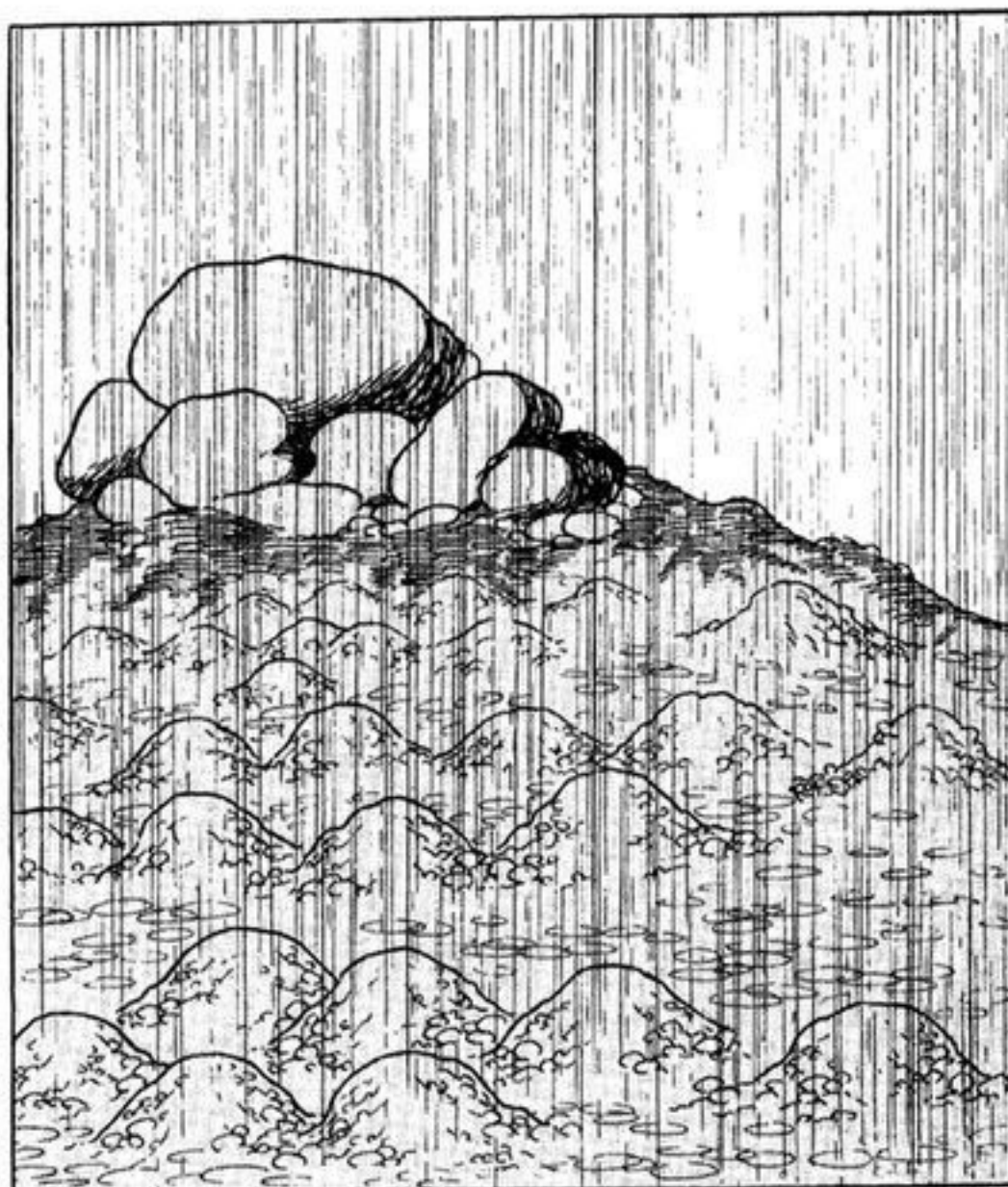
I'M SO HAPPY OGUNA!



I LOVE YOU TOO.

E-ETERNALLY...

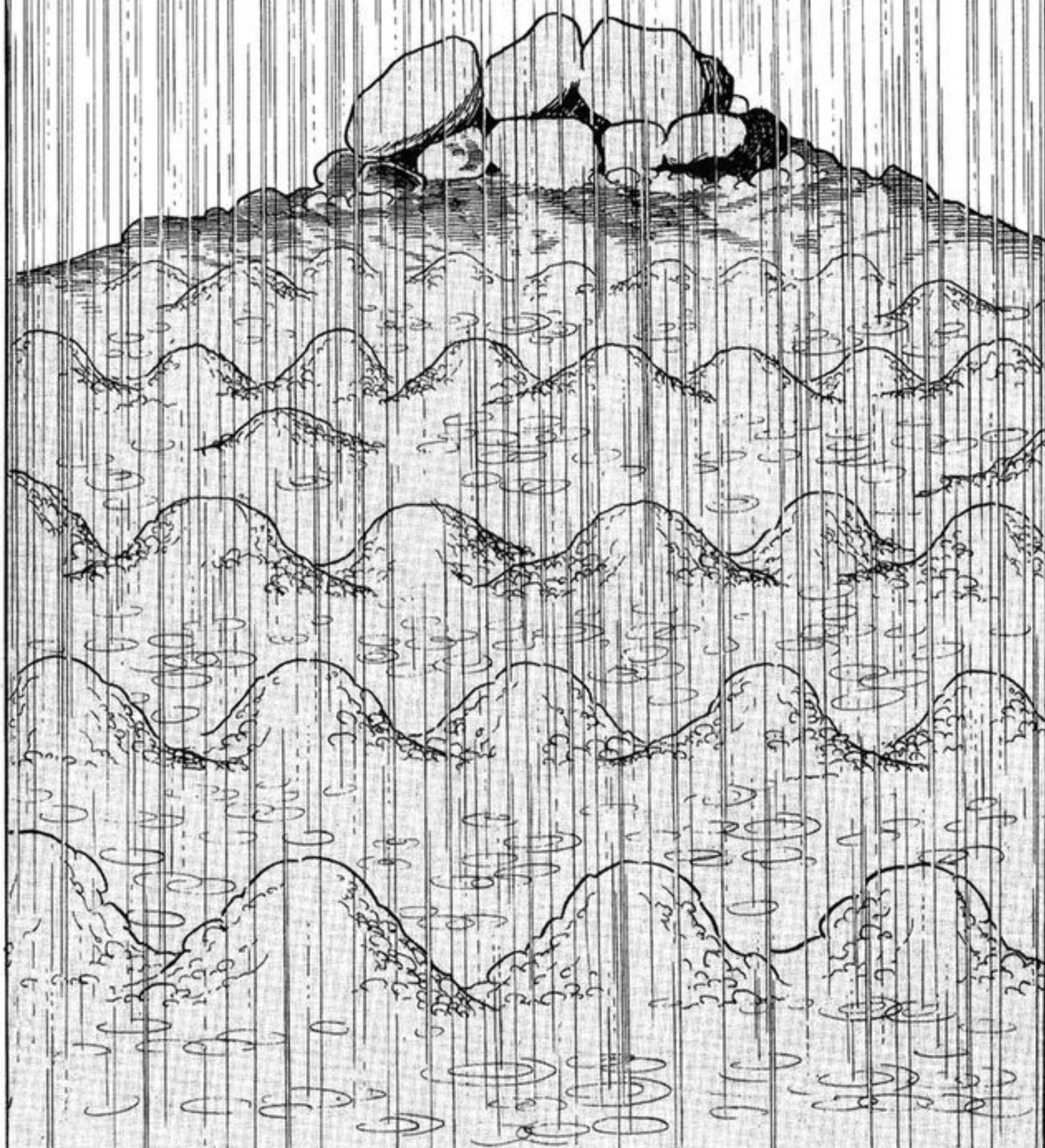
WE'LL BE TOGETHER ETERNALLY...





FINALLY  
THE LAST  
SACRIFICE  
PERISHED...  
AND THE  
TOMB FELL  
SILENT...

SOMETIME  
LATER, ARTISANS  
BEGAN TO  
PRODUCE CLAY  
FIGURINES WHICH  
WERE PLACED  
AROUND GRAVE  
SITES...AND THE  
CUSTOM OF  
BURYING LIVING  
SACRIFICES WAS  
ABOLISHED.





IN ASUKA, OF NARA  
PREFECTURE, JAPAN, LIES  
THE STONE TOMB OF A  
HALF COMPLETED BURIAL  
MOUND.  
WHY WAS IT LEFT EXPOSED  
AND UNFINISHED?  
PERHAPS THE KING WHO  
WAS BURIED THERE RAN  
INTO SOME UNFORESEEN  
DIFFICULTIES...

